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THE ROUMANIAN QUESTION.

THE majority of English readers, no doubt, feel rather bored by discussions on the politics of Moldo-Wallachia, or "Roumania," as the inhabitants of this dual State prefer to call it. It must be remembered, however, that the invasion of "the Principalities" by Russia, in 1854, when Moldavia and Wallachia were separate provinces, led to the Crimean War; and the events which have recently taken place at Bucharest have already caused Russia, Austria, and Turkey to put troops in movement. Moldavia and Wallachia have long been civilised countries, and of late years have had their little revolutions, like their betters. In 1848, when insurrections were taking place in all parts of Europe, the Hospodar of Wallachia was forced to dismiss an unpopular Ministry, and to sign a Constitution limiting his power. The Turks, however, entered the capital and restored the Hospodar, their agent and nominee, to his old position. A few years afterwards the two provinces were seized by Russia as "a material guarantee;" and on the retirement of the Russians they were held by a neutral army of Austrians until the conclusion of the war. It was then decided that Moldavia and Wallachia should be allowed, under certain conditions, to dispose of their own fate. They were not to unite, according to their well-known desire, but each province was to be allowed to elect its own Hospodar or Prince.

By a preconcerted arrangement the choice of both Moldavians and Wallachians fell upon the same man. The fortunate ruler was Colonel Couza—a man of no reputation, or rather of very bad reputation; and it was only intended that he should occupy the throne until some one much more worthy of it could be found. The Moldavians would have been dissatisfied if a Wallachian of importance had been raised to the head of the Government, and the Wallachians were unwilling to see any of the leading nobles of Moldavia in that position. But Colonel Couza was such a nonentity that it seemed a safe thing to the politicians of both provinces to accept him as a sort of stopgap. It is notorious that after his election Prince Couza showed himself in quite an unexpected light. He would not allow either Moldavians or Wallachians to make a tool of him. He would not be dictated to by his Chambers. On the contrary, it was he who first dictated to, and then dissolved, his Assembly; while he lessened the power of the landed proprietors, and, at the

same time, made an attempt to gain the favour of the peasantry by giving to the latter the land they held from the former on condition of working for it or paying rent. Whether this democratic-despotic measure had the effect of conciliating the peasants does not appear. But it is certain that Prince Couza by his tyrannical conduct made enemies of all the Liberal party as well as the Conservative

of jealousy, the Roumanians would prefer being governed by a foreign Prince; but this is positively forbidden by an article in the Treaty of Paris. The Austrians and English would not like to see the Russian Duke de Leuchtenberg, a member of the Russian Imperial family, reigning at Bucharest. Similar objections would, no doubt, be made to the proposed appointment of Prince Napoleon, for

whom, by-the-way, a kingship of some kind is always being found. In the meanwhile, it is much to be regretted for the sake of the Principalities themselves that an acceptable foreign Sovereign cannot be discovered for them; for if, as the treaty orders it, a native ruler is chosen, he is sure to be unpopular in at least one half of his dominions—if a Moldavian, in Wallachia; if a Wallachian, then in Moldavia. Russia, at the conference about to be held, will, no doubt, insist as strongly as she can on maintaining this prohibitory clause, which can scarcely fail to have the effect of weakening Roumania by dividing the country against itself. That is just what happened in the case of Poland, when Russia and Prussia stipulated, a few years before the first partition, that the King should be chosen from a native family, which made it a matter of certainty that he would always have a strong party in the country—the party of the defeated candidate or candidates—opposed to him.

An Austrian paper of some importance—*Der Wanderer* by name—has suggested that there is now a favourable opportunity for annexing the Principalities to the Austrian empire. This is very like saying that there is now a favourable opportunity for getting up a general war. However disinclined Russia may be to take active steps in the matter, she certainly could not look quietly on and allow Austria to seize provinces the absorption of which in the Austrian empire would at once put an end to Russia's historic policy in regard to Constantinople. But it has long been a



FRANCIS GRANT, ESQ., R.A., PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. AND C. WATKINS.)

landowners; and in the new Government both parties are represented. Like the Greeks a few years ago, the great difficulty of the Roumanians is to find a King. They would have liked to have the Count of Flanders, as the Greeks would have liked to have had Prince Alfred; but, following the example of the English Prince, the Belgian Count refuses the proffered Crown; and the throne of Moldo-Wallachia, with its important position on the Danube, and its eight millions of population, remains vacant. To avoid a very probable cause

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favourite scheme with the authors of new maps of Europe to make Austria give up Venetia to the kingdom of Italy, and compensate her for the loss by a cession of territory on the Danube. This is not by any means a favourite plan with the Roumanians, who desire an independent Government. But if the Roumanians themselves, as well as the Russians, the Austrians, the French, and the English are to be satisfied, the "question" that has just presented itself at Bucharest will be a difficult one indeed to solve.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

FRANCIS GRANT, Esq., R.A., who has been chosen to fill the post of President of the Royal Academy, vacant by the death of the late Sir Charles Eastlake, is the fourth son of the late Francis Grant, Esq., of Kilgrastoun, Perthshire, and brother of General Sir J. Hope Grant, G.C.B. He was born in 1803, and first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1834; was elected an Associate in 1842; and R.A. in 1851. Of the many famous beauties whose charms have lent additional attraction to his canvas, are the Marchioness of Waterford, the Ladies Howard, Lady Rodney, Mrs. Beauchamp, &c. Among the notables of the other sex whom he has painted may be named Macaulay, Disraeli, Lockhart, Sir Edwin Landseer, Lords Hardinge, Gough, Campbell, Derby, Palmerston, Clyde, Russell, and his brother Sir J. H. Grant. Some of Mr. Grant's earlier pictures belonged to a walk of art which he has since ceased to cultivate; such as, in 1837, the "Meet of His Majesty's Stag-hounds," painted for the Earl of Chesterfield. Containing forty-six portraits of celebrated sportsmen, it attracted much attention, and was subsequently engraved. The "Melton Hunt," which followed, was purchased by the Duke of Wellington, and also engraved.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The discussion on the address in the Corps Législatif has been continued all the week, and a great variety of amendments upon the committee's draught have been proposed. One paragraph, which has been added to the original draught, has a peculiar significance in the present state of the relations between Austria and Prussia. The paragraph in question is to this effect:—"We give our adhesion to the policy followed by the Emperor towards Germany. This policy of neutrality, which does not leave France indifferent to events, is agreeable to our interests." M. Jules Favre and others proposed an amendment, the object of which was explained by MM. Favre and Emile Ollivier. M. Rouher said the Government accepted the paragraph as drawn up by the committee, since it approved the policy of the Government, and at the same time reserved its liberty of action in the future. The amendment proposed by M. Favre was then rejected by 218 against 21 votes. Another amendment demanding that the inhabitants of the duchies should be consulted relative to their government was rejected by 215 against 30 votes. The paragraph as proposed by the committee was then adopted by 238 against 14 votes.

SPAIN.

Spain is by no means in a tranquil state. The *Avenir National* of Paris has a report that the garrison of Ciudad Rodrigo has rebelled and gone over to Portugal, and that there have been military risings at Alcala and other places. The same journal says Spain has demanded from the Portuguese Government the soldiers who escaped into Portugal on the ground that they are deserters.

Marshall O'Donnell has declared in the Cortes that the state of siege would continue until tranquillity had been completely restored and the Progressista party had ceased to conspire.

ITALY.

On the 1st of March the Italian military establishment was reduced entirely to a peace footing.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 2nd inst., the Minister of Justice, in reply to a question, said that the Government had lately sent a diplomatic note to Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Ambassador at Paris, requesting that steps should be taken for the release of the Italians confined at Rome for political offences.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial rescript, in reply to the addresses of both Houses, was read on Saturday last in the Upper and Lower Houses of the Hungarian Diet. The Emperor expresses satisfaction at the acknowledgment of the Diet that certain affairs are common to Hungary and Austria, and expects that further negotiations would lead the Diet also to acknowledge the necessity for a revision of the laws passed in 1848. The rescript then states that the 3rd article of the laws of 1848, establishing a separate ministry for Hungary, could not be maintained consistently with a proper treatment of common affairs. The Emperor states that Article 4 of the laws of 1848, stipulating that the Diet could not be dissolved by the Government before the budget had been voted, cannot be carried out. The rescript further announces that an immediate re-establishment of the comitats was impossible, and finally refers to the law of 1848, relative to the National Guard, in which the Emperor considers some modifications to be necessary. His Majesty repeats, in conclusion, that the re-establishment of the laws of 1848 is impossible without a previous revision of those laws.

PRUSSIA.

Fifty-seven members of the Upper House have presented an address to the King, in which they thank His Majesty for maintaining the rightful claims of Prussia in the Gastein Convention, and declare that the Austro-Prussian alliance will prevent any foreign intervention in the affairs of the fatherland. The address considers the strength of domestic enemies to be very small, and stigmatises in severe terms the conduct of the Chamber of Deputies, accusing them of attempting to constitute themselves the sovereign power. The address concludes as follows:—"Your Majesty has received the sword from God for the punishment of evildoers. We swear to support the King faithfully and with all our strength in any conflict."

ROUMANIA.

A conference on the affairs of the Danubian Principalities is to be held shortly in Paris. The *Moniteur* of Wednesday contains the following bulletin:—

Recent events in the Danubian Principalities having raised questions which affect the collective action of the Great Powers in the Eastern question, it is only natural that a fresh conference should assemble at Paris. The majority of the Plenipotentiaries have already been invested with the necessary powers to enable them to take part in the deliberations which are about to be held.

Six regiments of Cossacks have reinforced the Russian corps of observation stationed on the Moldo-Wallachian frontier. The pretensions of the Duke of Leuchtenburg as the future Hospodar of the Danubian Principalities are strongly put forward at Jassy. Military reinforcements have been dispatched from Bucharest to Jassy, and a military cordon has been established along the frontier line of the Pruth.

A Turkish corps of observation, in reference to the Principalities, has been stationed at Rustchuk. It appears to consist of about 18,000 infantry and 4000 cavalry.

It is stated to be probable that Austria will take military measures of precaution in Transylvania and Bukovina.

The Servian Government has adopted various precautionary measures with a view to suppress any disturbances which may arise.

A law authorising the Government to conclude a loan has been promulgated at Bucharest. A bill for the organisation of a national guard has also been presented to the Chamber by the Government.

THE LEBANON.

Advices from Tripoli, dated the 22nd ult., announce that Dervish Pacha had arrived in the Lebanon with 10,000 men. A detachment of Joseph Karam's partisans had defeated two battalions of Turks. Karam, with his forces, was entrenched at B. chi, awaiting the Turkish army under Dervish Pacha. Despatches from Beyrout state that Karam, whose proposals to surrender were only a feint, has been defeated by the Turkish forces. His partisans have committed all sorts of excesses, but have been dispersed, and the Turks have occupied Ebden. Karam has taken flight.

INDIA.

According to telegrams from Bombay to the 12th ult., the north-west frontier was not so quiet as was formerly reported. A large body of freebooters of the Murree tribe had been attacked and defeated.

A case of "suttee" had been prevented by the Kotah Chief, and the Viceroy had expressed his satisfaction at his conduct in the matter.

The Nawab of Bhowalpoore had issued a proclamation warning his subjects against all slave-trade dealings.

The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Jeddo*, from China, was wrecked thirty miles from Bombay on the night of the 2nd of February. All lives, as well as the cargo and specie, were saved.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have news from New York to the 24th ult. Some most important events had happened.

President Johnson has committed himself in a most decided manner to the carrying out his reconstruction policy, and, as his eccentric predecessor would have said, has "put his foot down." The occasion was the Freedmen's Bureau Bill, which had been carried by the Republican party through Congress. On the 20th ult. the President sent a message to the Senate vetoing the bill as unconstitutional and unnecessary. This raised the wrath of the Liberal Republicans, and they took a vote in the Senate for passing the bill over the President's veto, but were defeated, failing to get the necessary majority of two thirds. Foiled in this, the party had refused to admit Tennessee members into the House, and had introduced a motion rendering a President ineligible for re-election. The associated Judges of the Supreme Court had decided to resume the consideration of cases from the Southern States which were suspended during the rebellion, which is considered as an endorsement of the President's theory that the Southern States are still in the Union. The Democrats were in high spirits at the President's conduct.

The President had, however, subsequently taken still more decided action.

Meetings were held throughout the country on Washington's birthday to support President Johnson's policy. The meeting held at Washington passed resolutions commending Mr. Johnson's course. The assemblage then adjourned to the White House, where the President addressed an immense concourse of people. He reiterated that he would pursue the policy declared in his veto message. The Union, he was resolved, should be preserved. He stood where he did at the commencement of the rebellion, to vindicate the Union and the Constitution against disunionists from the North or South. On assuming office he found 8,000,000 of people who were, in fact, condemned under the law, the penalty being death; but, he would say, let the leaders, conscious and intelligent traitors, suffer the penalty of the law, but extend to the masses leniency, trust, and confidence. The South struggled to destroy the Government, but before the war was hardly over the country found itself in the midst of another rebellion. War was made to prevent a separation of the States, now there was an attempt to concentrate the power of Government in the hands of a few, thereby bringing about a consolidation equally dangerous and objectionable with separation. He denounced the appointment of a Congressional Committee to decide the claims of the Southern States to representation. "The Executive, military power, and public judgment," he said, "have decided that no State has the power or the right to go out of the Union, and you turn round and assume that they are out and shall not come in. I am not prepared to take any such position. I have found treason at the South, and now, when I turn to the other end of the line, I find men still opposing the restoration of the Union." President Johnson, replying to the call for their names, said:—

I regard them, as President or citizen, as being equally opposed to the fundamental principles of this Government; and believe they are as much labouring to prevent or destroy them as were those who fought against us. Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, and others of the same stripe, are among them. They may vituperate, traduce, slander me—that does not affect me. I do not intend to be overawed by friends nor bullied by enemies. It has been said in high places if such usurpation had been exercised two centuries ago it would have cost a certain individual his head. The usurpation I have been guilty of has been that of standing between the people and the encroachments of power. In connection with this subject the same gentleman explained that we were standing in the midst of earthquakes; he trembled, and could not yield. Yes, there is an earthquake coming; there is a ground-swell of popular judgment and indignation. When I am beheaded, I want the people to witness it. I do not want it done by innuendoes and indirect remarks in high places, to be suggested to men having assassination breeding in their bosoms. Others explain that this presidential obstacle must be gotten out of the way. What is that, if I may make use of a strong term, but inciting assassination? Are those who want to destroy our institutions and change the character of our Government not satisfied with the blood already shed? They have not the honour or the courage to obtain their ends otherwise than by assassins' hands. I know they are willing to wound; but they fear to strike. If my blood is to be shed because I vindicate the Union and the preservation of the Government in its purity, let it be shed; but let the opponents of the Government remember that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church. The Union will grow and continue to increase in strength and power, though it may be cemented and cleansed with blood.

A great meeting had been held at the Cooper Institute, New York, where all classes of politics were represented. An address and resolutions were adopted urging the admission of loyal Southern representatives to Congress, approving the veto, indorsing Mr. Johnson's policy, and recommending the calling of another meeting, whenever the exigency demanded it, to promote harmony in the public councils of the country. Mr. Seward made a speech, in which he said that the country was in no peril, no matter whether the Congressional or the Presidential policy prevailed. This confidence arose from the conviction that there never was, and never can be, any successful process for the restoration of union and harmony among the States except that with which the President had avowed himself satisfied. Loyal men from the Southern States would, sooner or later, during this or some other Congressional term, be received into the national Legislature. The restoration would then be complete. Territorial government would require greater Imperial powers than Napoleon possessed. Maximilian's task, though he engages two Emperors and two Imperial organisations, with their forces, was not thought the most wise or hopeful political enterprise of the day. The Congressional policy was impracticable and vicious.

Mr. Seward telegraphed from Washington on the 23rd as follows:—"It is all right. The Union is restored. The country is safe. The President's speech is triumphant, and the country will be happy." A Radical Republican caucus had been held in Washington, at which moderate counsels prevailed. A resolution admitting Tennessee into the Union was offered and favourably received, but not pressed to a vote.

Considerable political excitement prevailed in Congress on the 23rd, but no political action was taken. The Senate determined, by a vote of twenty-six against nineteen, to call up the report of the majority from the Reconstruction Committee concerning the admission of Southern representatives. Mr. Fessenden spoke in favour of the report. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill extending the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill for two years. It is believed that the President will acquiesce in this.

Ex-Vice-President Stephens (of the Confederate States) delivered an address to the Georgia Legislature on Washington's birthday, in which he said the whole United States is now one country, to be dearly cherished by all, heart and arm. He approved President Johnson's reconstruction policy.

General Grant had directed all commanders of military to send to head-quarters copies of newspapers expressing disloyalty and hostility to the Government. The suppression of papers would be made from head-quarters.

General Crawford had escaped from Jackson, New Orleans. The other persons implicated in the Bagdad affair had been released on parole.

General Sweeney had submitted to the Fenian congress at Pittsburgh the details of a military plan, supposed to be for invading Canada. A military committee of Fenians from each State had approved the plan.

PROFESSOR KNOP, of Leipzig, has discovered, while searching for specimens of crystallised cryolite, a new mineral, to which, from its appearance, he has given the name of *pachnolite-pachne*, frost. It occurs in two varieties: the one in right-angled parallelepipeds, with three unequal cleavages; the other in rows of small crystals, grouped in the form of a comb, within hollows of the original cryolite.

THE JAMAICA COMMISSION.

THE following is an extract from the letter, dated Feb. 9, of the special correspondent of the *Times*:—

During the last fortnight the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into "the origin, nature, and circumstances" of the outbreak here have been occupied every day in examining witnesses. Hitherto the three Commissioners—his Excellency Sir Henry Storks, Mr. Russell Gurney, and Mr. Maule—have not exercised their power of taking evidence severally. This is obviously a power to be used only in case of necessity; and the progress of the inquiry has been such that the Commissioners will probably be able to get through their work within a reasonable period, continuing able to sit and to sift the evidence as one undivided tribunal. Up to Wednesday evening 130 witnesses had been examined, including Governor Eyre; but it may become necessary to re-examine his Excellency, along with some of the other witnesses, on points which arise in the course of the inquiry or which remain still untouched. Mr. Eyre has done little more than to verify his despatches on oath, and reiterate opinions already on record there. He has expressed his wish to furnish any further information in his possession; and, when another branch of the inquiry is entered upon, the Royal Commissioners will probably request further evidence from his Excellency. They have tried to group their inquiry, as far as was possible, into different heads, beginning with a description of the riot at Morant Bay, and of the events immediately preceding it, from policemen and volunteers, official and non-official persons—white, black, and coloured—who were concerned in suppressing it, or who could throw light upon the proceedings of the rioters at and after the outbreak. The attacks made by the rioters upon the houses of planters and others in the district around Morant Bay, the personal narratives given by survivors, white and coloured, and the cruelties attributed to the troops and volunteers, have formed the main features in the very voluminous evidence already given. By-and-by, Major-General O'Connor, Brigadier Nelson, who arrived by the last packet, and the military and naval officers who commanded detachments, will no doubt describe the part they took in suppressing the outbreak and in punishing the guilty. They will also answer, if they can, the charges of unnecessary severity alleged against them and against the troops acting under their directions. Then will come the Gordon case, the question of the origin of the outbreak, meaning by that not remote but proximate causes; and, lastly, the important question whether it was a local riot or an organised and general rebellion which prematurely exploded in Morant Bay.

Judging from the attendance of the public, no absorbing amount of interest is felt here in the proceedings of the Commission. In the Council Hall, where the Commissioners sit, there is plenty of space below the bar for those who wish to hear, and no restriction is imposed upon admittance; but sixty or seventy people, mostly blacks and coloured people, are the largest audience who have yet been present. The Commissioners sit now from ten till four, or frequently till five o'clock, but at the earnest request of all who are attending professionally, they did not sit yesterday, being the day before the starting of the mail. In this climate the work of following the evidence for five or six hours is of itself sufficiently exhausting. Sir Henry Storks, who, besides presiding over the Commission, has to transact the whole business of Government, must have upon his shoulders a burden of duty which few men would like to bear in any part of the world, much less in the tropics.

Mr. C. Saville Roundell, the secretary to the Commission, has had a trying task in classifying and arranging a vast body of extremely intractable evidence. At first witnesses did not understand that they must come when summoned, and the Commissioners have had to threaten with pains and penalties those who were not forthcoming. Now the black and coloured people are beginning to see that they must not trifle with the Court, and the stream of testimony runs on pretty steadily. Mr. Walcott, of the Jamaica Bar, instructed by Mr. F. R. Lynch, now appears for Governor Eyre and the Executive Committee, and for the authorities engaged in suppressing the rebellion; but the Commission had been opened a week before any gentleman appeared in this behalf. Mr. Gorrie, of the Scotch, and Mr. Horne Payne, of the English Bar, represent Mrs. Gordon and the Jamaica Committee. Mr. Phillips, of the Colonial Bar, instructed by Mr. C. Harvey, appears for Dr. Underhill and the Baptist missionaries whose conduct is impugned by Mr. Eyre.

At the first sitting application was made by Mr. Gorrie and Mr. Payne for liberty to cross-examine witnesses in the usual way, but the Commissioners decided, through Mr. Gurney, that, as they represented all parties, including the whole body of the sufferers, the inquiry must be left in their hands and the examination conducted through them, and not through those who appeared for particular parties. The result has been that generally, though not invariably, questions are suggested by counsel and put through the Court, and that no witnesses are heard but those whose depositions are taken by the solicitor to the Commissioners. Some difficulty has been experienced in finding a gentleman to fill this office, who satisfies all parties as being above prejudice and suspicion of partiality on either side, and this fact may show how strongly opinion runs in the colony and how careful the Commissioners have to be in the steps they take and the appointments they make. Hitherto I have not heard a dissentient opinion as to the entire impartiality shown by the Court, as well as the patience and the ability shown in eliciting the evidence. Mr. Russell Gurney and Mr. Maule conduct the examinations alternately from the preliminary depositions taken.

GRAND INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION AND BOTANICAL CONFERENCE.—The prospects of the Grand International Horticultural Exhibition and Botanical Congress, to be held at South Kensington in May next, are most encouraging. The ground to be occupied by the show, which is a portion of the site of the 1862 Exhibition, is already under preparation for the erection of the monster tent; and, according to the plans which have been adopted, the interior arrangements will be made most effective. The complimentary banquet to the learned foreigners who are invited to take part in the proceedings, or to attend as delegates from foreign Governments, and which, thanks to the City Corporation, is to be held in the Guildhall, is drawing in as subscribers to the fund many who are anxious to do homage to the distinguished visitors who will honour the occasion with their presence. While the Botanical Congress, which is to be under the presidency of M. de Candolle, is assuming from day to day a more practical shape, several eminent botanists, both at home and abroad, have already joined in working it out to a successful issue. The meetings of the congress are to be held in the Raphael Cartoon Room, at South Kensington, by permission of the Committee of Council on Education. This great horticultural movement, it should be remembered, is wholly of an independent character, and it must be a source of great gratification to the friends of scientific horticulture in this country that it has attracted so large an amount of voluntary pecuniary support, without which, indeed, it would not have been attempted. The expenses, however, will be heavy in proportion to the magnitude of the undertaking, and further aid is necessary to secure that the combined exhibition and congress be carried out in a spirited manner, which is highly desirable, having reference to their international character.

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION AT SANTORINO.—Her Majesty's ship *Surprise*, Commander Tryon, which had been dispatched to Santorino to render assistance to the inhabitants, returned to Malta on the 24th of February. As soon as Santorino was sighted by the *Surprise*, a dense white mass of vapour was observed rising from the sea, which appeared to be boiling, from some unknown cause; and when the island was approached a strange sight was seen—the sea evidently was boiling and clouds of the whitest steam rushed out, roaring heavenwards like an enormous avalanche, and looking like snow. Something black was then seen rising slowly from the sea, which afterwards turned out to be no less than an island springing from the deep. It appears that there were no earthquakes, but convulsions of nature caused by volcanic islands having been thrown up from the sea; and, as violent eruptions had taken place, the inhabitants were greatly alarmed, but at the time the *Surprise* arrived no immediate danger was apprehended. The position of the vessel was a very good one to watch the eruptions from the volcano on the burning island that had lately risen from the deep. The sea for several miles looked very strange, the sulphur giving it a yellowish appearance, and round the new volcanic island the sea was boiling at some 100 yards distance from the shore. The steam rose with great grandeur, the whole island emitting smoke and sulphurous vapours, coloured by the flames inside the volcano, in some places being cracked, and through the fissures an immense mass of red-hot lava was visible. The volcano was in a constant state of life, and an eruption took place on the morning of the arrival of the *Surprise*. A black mass of vapour was vomited forth from the volcano, pouring upwards; but the fury of the eruption was soon expended, and it suddenly ceased. The second night after the arrival of the *Surprise* another eruption took place. The roar was very fierce, smoke poured forth from the volcano with terrific fury, and large blocks of rock and stone were hurled into the air, the whole presenting a most imposing sight. During that night it was said that a new island had been thrown up; the one pointed out was about 300 yards long, and was a black smoking mass. Close to the anchorage of the *Surprise* there had been a place called "Mineral Creek," which was then no more; a large hill had risen out of it. It made its appearance before the arrival of that vessel, but it rose higher and higher during her presence there, while the old island was sinking gradually as if about to return to the depths of the sea from which it had risen. On this sinking island were several houses, many of which were gone altogether, and others were being washed by the sea; of one house there was little more than the roof and chimney pot above the water, while a building sank and rose again. It was remarkable that rocks were constantly appearing above the sea and then disappearing; and hence the position taken up by the *Surprise* was not very pleasant. On the second night a slight concussion was felt two or three times on board, and, as islands had been springing up in the immediate neighbourhood, it appeared likely that one could come up under the ship's bottom. At the time the wind and sea were heavy, and the vessel drifted rapidly in the direction of the volcano, round which the sea was boiling, and a world of steam, vapour, and smoke arising. The *Surprise* immediately got up steam. A large number of houses were buried in the lava and by the new hill that rose from Mineral Creek; but, fortunately, no lives were lost, as timely warning had been given and the inhabitants had escaped. The damage done to property was not so great as might have been expected.

OBITUARY.

LORD BEAUCHAMP.—Lord Beauchamp died, on Sunday morning, at his residence in Belgrave-square. The deceased nobleman had been ill for a long time past, and for some time it had been seen that his malady must terminate fatally. The deceased, Henry Lygon, Earl Beauchamp, Viscount Elmley, and Baron Beauchamp, of Powke, in the county of Worcester, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, was the eldest son of Henry Beauchamp, fourth Earl, by his marriage with Lady Susan Eliot, second daughter of William, second Earl of St. Germans, and was born on the 13th of February, 1829; consequently, he had recently completed his thirty-fifth year. The late Earl was educated at Eton, and shortly afterwards entered the Army as Ensign in the 1st Life Guards, in which regiment he remained till he succeeded to the family honours on the death of his father in September, 1863, being at the time he retired the senior Captain in the regiment. He was formerly in the House of Commons, having succeeded his father as one of the representatives of the western division of Worcestershire in the autumn of 1853, which constituency he represented up to his accession to the Upper House of Parliament. The late Earl, who was unmarried, is succeeded in the earldom and large family estates in Worcestershire by his only brother, the Hon. Frederick Lygon, M.P.

GENERAL SIR ADOLPHUS J. DALRYMPLE, BART.—The above-named gallant Baronet expired on Saturday last at his residence at Brighton. The late Sir Adolphus was the son of the first Baronet by the youngest daughter and coheir of General Leighton. He was born in 1784, and married, 1812, Miss Graham, daughter of the late Sir J. Graham, Bart., of Kirkcaldy, which lady died in 1858. He succeeded his father in 1830. For a long series of years he was in the House of Commons, and was a zealous supporter of the Conservative party. He was M.P. for Weymouth in 1817; for Appleby in 1819-20; and for the Haddington District Burghs from 1826 till 1831. In 1832 he unsuccessfully contested Brighton; also in 1835, and in 1837 was one of the successful candidates. He remained in Parliament till 1841. The late Sir Adolphus was a descendant of the noble house of Stair. Like many scions of that noble family, he became a soldier in early life. He served in the Peninsula, and was gazetted General the 11th of April, 1860.

MAJOR-GENERAL REEVES, C.B.—The death is announced of Major-General George Marmaduke Reeves, late Colonel Commanding her Majesty's 99th (or Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot. The deceased entered the Army as Ensign on the 1st of July, 1824. He served throughout the campaign of 1860 in the north of China, commanded the fourth brigade at the action of Sihho, the taking of Tang-Ku, and the storming of the nearest Taku Fort, when he was wounded severely in three places and slightly in two, but he did not quit the field until all the north forts had surrendered. He commanded the advance from Tien-Tsin and the fourth brigade in the actions of the 18th and 21st of September and the surrender of Peking. He was C.B., had medals and clasps and a distinguished-service pension.

REAR-ADMIRAL HUTTON.—Rear-Admiral Frederick Hutton died, at Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday last. The deceased Admiral, who was on the active list of flag-officers, entered the Navy in 1813, at the early age of thirteen. By his death, Captain William Loring, Captain Superintendent of Pembroke Dockyard, becomes a Rear-Admiral, and consequently vacates his present employment. By this promotion the Duke of Somerset has another naval aide-de-campship to her Majesty placed at his disposal.

MR. GODFREY SYKES.—We have to announce the early death of this artist, which took place on Wednesday week. About five years ago Mr. Sykes came to London from the Sheffield School of Art, where he had been successfully student, teacher, and master, to undertake the decoration of the arcades in the Royal Horticultural Gardens. His success in that task was such that it has given an impetus to the revival of the use of terra-cotta, which has since been largely employed by Mr. Barry, R.A., and other architects. But Mr. Sykes's greatest achievement is the production of a series of columns now being erected in front of the new lecture-theatre at South Kensington, which for style and size are worthy of being placed on the Certosa at Pavia or in the hospital at Milan. Those columns were Mr. Sykes's last work, and they were being fixed in their places while he was drawing his last breath. Besides being a sculptor and a modeller, he was also a skilful painter; and he was perhaps the first artist who has ventured to take the mere structural forms of ribs and bolts of iron-work and to make them decorative on their own surfaces. A specimen of his success in that direction may be seen in the south court of the Kensington Museum. Before his death he had nearly matured designs for the decoration in majolica of the new refreshment-rooms attached to the building, a kind of work which has not been attempted in modern times, except in the Royal dairy at Frogmore. Mr. Sykes was the most eminent designer whom the national art-schools have produced. He was only in his forty-first year.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.—During the last few days workmen have been engaged in placing in the north aisle of Canterbury Cathedral a monument to the memory of the late Archbishop. It is formed of a solid piece of fine Caen stone, and sculptured in the plain Gothic style, bearing an effigy in the full episcopal robes. In the centre of the base is inscribed, in old English characters, "John Bird Sumner, born 1789; Bishop of Chester, 1828; Archbishop of Canterbury, 1848; died, 1862. He showed out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.—St. James, chap. 3, 13." The monument is the work of Mr. H. Weekes, R.A.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE CAPTAIN GRONOW.—Captain Gronow, who lately died in Paris, has left a widow and four young children by his second marriage utterly destitute, without means to defray his funeral expenses, or even to purchase bread. Captain Gronow was disinherited by his father, in favour of his brother, a clergyman; and the small income which he derived from the interest of a sum charged on the family estate ceased with his life; while the sums he received from time to time for his "Recollections" were expended in providing for the increasing expenses of his young family. Under these distressing circumstances, the friends of Moline, Gronow in Paris came to her aid; and they now appeal to the liberality of her late husband's friends in London, and also to the readers of his Reminiscences, for contributions to enable her to maintain and educate her children. Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., publishers; and by Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, army agents.

THE SICK POOR.—The Earl of Carnarvon presided, on Saturday afternoon last, over a large meeting, at Willis's Rooms, called by the newly-formed association for the improvement of workhouse sick wards and infirmaries. The Archbishop of York was one of the principal speakers. The following resolutions were passed:—First, moved by the Archbishop of York, and seconded by T. Hughes, Esq., M.P.:—"That the present management of the sick in the metropolitan workhouse infirmaries is highly unsatisfactory; that the buildings are inadequate and unhealthy, the medical attendance insufficient, the nursing merely nominal, and the general system of administration radically defective." Second, moved by Mr. Ernest Hart, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Smith:—"That, with a view to the humane and efficient treatment of the sick paupers, it is desirable to consolidate the infirmaries of the metropolitan workhouses, to support them by a general metropolitan rate, and to place them under uniform management in connection with the Poor-Law Board." Third, moved by Mr. Davenport Bromley, M.P., and seconded by Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth:—"That, in order to give effect to the foregoing resolutions, it is necessary that immediate steps should be taken to introduce a fitting measure in the House of Commons; and that a deputation be appointed to wait on the President of the Poor-Law Board to ascertain whether he will be willing to bring in a bill for the purpose." And "That, in the event of the President of the Poor-Law Board declining to take charge of this question, the committee of this association be requested to take independent means to bring forward an appropriate measure in Parliament during the present Session."

BURIED ALIVE.—A petition was discussed in the French Senate a few days ago, calling for further precautions against the possibility of people being buried alive on the supposition that they were dead. The petitioner asked for the adoption of a system prevalent in some parts of Germany, the application of the test of electricity and the deposit of coffins for a certain time before the final interment, in vaults open to medical inspection. Viscount de Guéronniere said the subject had been very often considered, that the precautions prescribed by the code were quite sufficient, and that the proper course on the petition would be to pass to the order of the day—i.e., to reject it. Cardinal Donnet, the Archbishop of Bordeaux, opposed this conclusion, and in a speech which made a great sensation adduced many instances within his own knowledge of people certified dead by authority who turned out to be alive. He remembered a case when he was a young priest of an old man who lived twelve hours after the legal warrant of his burial was issued. In another case, at Bordeaux, a young girl was certified to be dead. He (Mr. Donnet) providentially came to the house just as she was about to be screwed down. He conceived doubts about her dissolution, spoke to her in a loud voice, and had the inexpressible happiness of hearing her answer. That woman, who belonged to one of the most respectable families at Bordeaux, was still alive, a wife and a mother. He would mention another case, yet more striking. In 1826, a young priest, preaching on a hot day in a crowded church, suddenly fell down unconscious. He was taken home and laid out for dead. A medical certificate of his death was given, and preparations were made for his funeral. The bishop of the cathedral in which he had been preaching came to the foot of his bed and said a *De Profundis*. The measure of his coffin was taken, and he, alive all the time, heard the orders given for his burial, and was not able to protest against them. At length the voice of a friend of his boyhood produced a magical effect upon him, and he awoke. "That priest," said Cardinal Donnet, "is now, at the distance of forty years, alive; he is here among you, a member of the Senate, and he now supplicates the Government to frame better regulations so as to prevent terrible and irreparable misfortunes." (Great sensation.) Several other senators mentioned cases of suspended animation, and asserted that the number of corpses found in coffins, which had unquestionably moved after burial, led to the conclusion that burial of living persons must be far more frequent than was supposed. The Senate was so struck with the arguments brought forward, that in spite of a speech by President Royer, contending that the existing regulations were as perfect as could be, it overruled the report of the committee, and voted that the petition should be referred, as a matter of consideration, to the Minister of the Interior.

IRON-CLAD SHIPS.

A RETURN was issued on Saturday last, showing the speed, outlay, &c., of the iron-clad ships belonging to the Royal Navy. The following is the substance of the return, in a tabulated form:—

Name.	Speed in knots per hour.	Expenses of building and fitting hulls.	Cost of alterations, repairs, &c.
Warrior	14.356	£286,285	£22,517
Black Prince	13.604	288,911	11,107
Defence	11.618	206,783	11,061
Resistance	11.834	213,889	11,426
Hector	12.36	242,395	2,215
Valiant	12.633	263,258	—
Achilles	14.322	388,219	1,549
Minotaur	14.779	345,873	—
Agincourt	15.433	346,455	—
Northumberland	—	250,865	—
Prince Albert (turret)	—	144,409	—
Bellerophon	—	245,509	—
Penelope	—	—	—
Viper	—	31,790	—
Vixen	—	35,485	—
Water Witch	—	18,667	—
Hercules	—	—	—
Monarch	—	—	—

The blanks in the foregoing table are accounted for by the fact of the vessels not yet being completed. The Warrior, the Black Prince, the Defence, the Resistance, the Hector, and the Valiant were designed and put in hand by the late controller, Sir B. Walker, and Mr. Watts, the chief constructor at the time. The Achilles, the Minotaur, the Agincourt, the Northumberland, and the turret-ship Prince Albert were designed and put in hand by the present controller, Admiral Robinson, and Mr. Watts. The last seven vessels in the foregoing table were designed and put in hand by the present controller and Mr. Reed, the present chief constructor. The Warrior, the Black Prince, the Achilles, the Defence, the Resistance, the Hector, and the Prince Albert are now in commission. The Valiant, the Minotaur, the Agincourt, the Viper, and the Vixen have been launched; and the Water Witch, the Northumberland, the Penelope, the Hercules, and the Monarch are on the stocks or building.

The large sum expended on the Warrior since she was built includes part of an extensive refit, commenced since she was paid off. Forty-four months have elapsed since her building was completed, and only thirty-three since the finishing of the Black Prince.

PAUPERISM AT CHRISTMAS LAST.

THE Poor-Law Board have just published their "statement as to pauperism" for the quarter ended Christmas, 1865, from which it appears that the papers in receipt of relief, in England and Wales, on the last day of the last week in December were, in

1863	960,705
1864	928,404
1865	882,025

being a decrease of 5.00 per cent in 1865 as compared with 1864, but a decrease of 8.19 per cent as compared with 1863; this satisfactory decrease being chiefly caused by the cessation of distress caused by the cotton famine in the manufacturing districts.

The following are the figures for the three principal manufacturing divisions of England and Wales—viz., the North-Midland, North-Western, and Yorkshire—for the same period, viz.:

1863	290,544
1864	259,662
1865	241,101

The decrease in 1865, as compared with 1864, was 17.55 per cent, but compared with 1863 it was 26.31 per cent.

The return for the metropolis is not so satisfactory; there was an increase in 1865 over 1864 of 4.10 per cent, and of 1865 over 1863 of 7.23 per cent. The figures being for

1863	96,230
1864	99,125
1865	103,192

Lunatic paupers in asylums and licensed houses, and vagrants, forming only a small portion of the entire pauperism of the country, are not included in this return. According to the latest published statement (Jan. 1, 1864) the number contained in these two classes was 2.2 per cent of the total pauperism.

There are at present 14,685 parishes in England and Wales from which returns are received at the Poor-Law Board; the aggregate population of these parishes is at least 20,000,000. It appears from a table appended to this return that in 1861 the adult population—i.e., those of twenty and upwards—in England and Wales numbered 10,983,558, distributed as follows:—"Professional," 419,000, or 3.8 per cent of the whole; "domestic," 4,104,000, or 37.4 per cent; "commercial," 501,000, or 4.6 per cent; "agricultural," 1,606,000, or 14.6 per cent; "industrial," 3,747,000, or 34.1 per cent; and "non-productive and indefinite," 608,000, or 5.5 per cent.

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company held at Edinburgh a few days ago, it was resolved to adjourn until Friday, the 23rd inst., to give time for the completion of the calculations of the Life Branch consequent on the septennial investigation. The directors stated that the dividend to be declared would most likely be 12s. 6d. per share, with a bonus of 10s. per share.

THE BOROUGH FRANCHISE.—A statistical return has been made to Parliament by the Poor-Law Board, in compliance with a motion carried by Mr. Baines as to the number of male persons resident within each Parliamentary borough in England and Wales, or within seven miles of it, who are assessed on the valuation list now in force, at certain gross estimated rentals; and also of the population of each Parliamentary borough, with the gross estimated rental of property, and the number of electors on the register now in force; also an estimate of the number of electors if the franchise were extended to rentals of £9, £8, £7, and £6. It is set forth that there are in all the boroughs 8,638,569 male occupiers, paying a gross estimated rental of £41,059,105, and of whom 514,028 are registered as electors. The total estimated rental is thus divided as to payers:—Under £4, 130,256; at £4 and under £5, 108,465; at £5 and under £6, 131,710; at £6 and under £7, 130,232; at £7 and under £8, 93,706; at £8 and under £9, 68,690; at £9 and under £10, 42,737; at £10 and over, 634,082. Thus, if we subtract from this last number of 634,082 who are entitled to vote under the present borough franchise the number of electors actually on the register, less 11,849 "duplicate entries," there are left 182,383, or 28.8 per cent of the electors who do not care to exercise their right, or are not disqualified by reason of insufficient residence, nonpayment of rates, &c. The total number of possible electors who would, according to these statistics, receive the franchise if it were lowered to a £6 rental would be 335,365; but if we deduct from these 28.8 per cent who presumably would not exercise their right, or would be somehow disqualified for using it, the number of possible voters added by this measure would be 335,365—86,586—248,780.

A BOLD EXPERIMENT.—Soon after midnight on Monday a special train left Eas on station upon a strangely exceptional errand. More than 100 skilled workmen and labourers, marshalled by gangers, contractors, and agents, took their seats in it, in orderly fashion, but with a mysterious and determined air, as if some more than usually weighty business were on hand. One carriage was devoted to stout tools and implements, and the train, thus freighted, reached Tring at 1.30 on Tuesday morning. A procession was formed at the station—each man shouldering a crowbar or other implement, and a complete phalanx, 120 strong, marched out, two and two, into the moonlight. A walk of three miles brought them to the side of Berkhamstead Common, nearest to Ashridge Park, the seat of Earl Brownlow, and the objects of the expedition were then first made known to the rank and file. The greater portion of the common, occupying a space some two miles in length and from three-quarters of a mile to a mile and a half broad, was inclosed a fortnight ago by Earl Brownlow; and we learn that Mr. Augustus Smith, of the Scilly Islands, as the owner of an estate near, and therefore as a commoner acting in concert with his neighbours, had determined to test his Lordship's right to this course in a very practical way. The whole of the iron railings, consisting of stout "uprights," five feet high, and with broad metal bands at close intervals between each, were to be thrown down before daylight, Mr. Smith and the commoners taking all responsibility, chartering the train, and engaging the men. These last were told off in detachments of a dozen strong; the substantial joints of the railings were first loosened by hammers and chisels, and the crowbars did the rest. Before six o'clock on Tuesday morning the whole of the inclosure was levelled to the ground, each stout upright having the metal bands, its tributaries, first neatly folded round it, and then being laid upon the turf it had recently served to close in. It was seven o'clock before the alarm was given; and, by the time Mr. Paxton—the late Sir Joseph Paxton's brother—and Earl Brownlow's steward appeared upon the scene, Berkhamstead-common was inclosed no longer. It was too late to do more than protest against the alleged trespass, and this was energetically done. Meanwhile the news spread, and the inhabitants of the adjacent village and district flocked upon the scene. In carriage, gigs, dogcarts, and on foot, gentry, shopkeepers, husbandmen, women, and children, at once tested the reality of what they saw by strolling over and squatting on the common, and cutting and taking away morsels of gorse, to prove, as they said, "the place was their own again." The cost of the three miles of iron railing removed is said to have been more than £1000; and that of its removal must have been considerable. Whatever may be the result of this daring return to what is called "old constitutional form," and however it may be viewed by the legal authorities before whom it will be speedily brought, it must be regarded as one of the most decided and vigorous protests against alleged usurpation which have occurred in our own prosaic, peaceful, and order-loving times.

A NEGRO SCULPTRESS.

A LETTER from Rome gives the following account of a lady who has just made quite a sensation in art-circles in that city:—

An interesting novelty has sprung up amongst us, in a city where all our surroundings are of the olden time. Miss Edmonia Lewis, a lady of colour, has taken a studio in Rome, and works as a sculptress in one of the rooms formerly occupied by the great master, Canova. She is the only lady of her race in the United States who has thus applied herself to the study and practice of sculptural art, and the fact is so remarkable and unique that a brief sketch of her life, given almost in her own words, will, I am sure, be acceptable to the wide circle of your readers. "My mother," she told me only last Monday, "was a wild Indian, and was born in Albany, of copper colour, and with straight black hair. There she made and sold moccasins. My father, who was a negro, and a gentleman's servant, saw her and married her. I was born at Greenhigh, in Ohio. Mother often left her home, and wandered with her people, whose habits she could not forget, and thus we, her children, were brought up in the same wild manner. Until I was twelve years old I led this wandering life, fishing and swimming," she added, with great glee, "and making moccasins. I was then sent to school for three years in Mr. Graw, but was declared to be wild—they could do nothing with me. Often they said to me, 'Here is your book, the book of Nature; come and study it.' From this school I was sent to another, at Oblin, in Ohio, where I remained four years, and then I thought of returning to wild life again, but my love of sculpture forbade it. Some friends recommended me to go to England, but I thought it better first to study in Rome." And here she is, the descendant and member of a much-injured race, struggling against ignorant prejudice, but with genius enough to prove that she bears the image of Him who made all nations under the sun. Whilst her youth and her colour claim our warmest sympathies, Miss Edmonia Lewis has a very engaging appearance and manners. Her eyes and the upper part of her face are fine; the crisp hair and thick lips, on the other hand, bespeak her negro paternity. Naïve in manner, happy and cheerful, and all unconscious of difficulty, because obeying a great impulse, she prattles like a child, and with much simplicity and spirit pours forth all her aspirations. At present she has little to show; she appeals to the patronage and protection of the civilised and Christian world. There is the cast of a bust of Colonel Shaw, who commanded the first coloured regiment that was ever formed, and who died "a leader for all time in Freedom's Chivalry." The bust was executed from a photograph, and now, as a commission from the sister of Colonel Shaw, is being transferred to marble. Another commission is a bust of Mr. Dio Lewis, I believe, of New York. Her first ideal group was to be executed under promise for some gentlemen in Boston, and, in the true spirit of a heroine, she has selected for her subject "The Freedwoman on First Hearing of her Liberty." She has thrown herself on her knees, and, with clasped hands and uplifted eyes, she blesses God for her redemption. Her boy, ignorant of the cause of her agitation, hangs over her knees and clings to her waist. She wears the turban which was used when at work. Around her wrists are the half-broken manacles, and the chain lies on the ground still attached to a large ball. "Yes," she observed, "so was my race treated in the market and elsewhere." It tells, with much eloquence, a painful story.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY LIFE-BEAT.—The following colleges of Oxford University have, through the benevolent and zealous exertions of the Rev. G. S. Ward, contributed to the National Life-beat Institution the amounts hereafter named to defray the cost of a life-beat to be stationed at Hayle, on the Cornish Coast:—Christ Church, £72 17s. 6d.; Brasenose, £35 6s.; Balliol, £24 6s.; All Souls, £9 4s.; Corpus Christi, £17 12s.; Exeter, £16 3s.; Jesus, £6 7s. 6d.; St. John's, £19 4s.; Lincoln, £23 12s.; Magdalen, £52 3s.; Merton, £27 10s.; New College, £20 10s.; Oriel, £26 8s. 6d.; Pembroke, £13 1s.; Queen's, £50 18s.; Trinity, £33 13s.; University, £19 17s.; Wadham, £34 14s. 6d.; Worcester, £35 19s.; St. Alban Hall, £56s.; St. Edmund Hall, £5 17s.; Magdalen Hall, £16 14s.; St. Mary Hall, £11 8s.; and sundry contributions, £33: making a total of £601 11s.

DORMANT AND ATTAINED PEERAGES.—Several of the most ancient and historic of our peerage dignities are under attainder; otherwise the Earl of Stamford would be Marquis of Dorset; the Duke of Buccleuch, Duke of Monmouth; the Earl of Abergavenny, Earl of Westmoreland; Captain Charles Stannard Eustace, Viscount Balmaloe; and Mr. Marmion Ferrers, of Baldesley Clinton, might prove his right to be Earl of Derby, by a creation older than that of the Stanleys. In course of time it may fairly be anticipated that these attainders will be reversed, and that other extinct or dormant titles may be restored to the extant Peerage. The earldom of Wiltes has a collateral heir-male in Mr. Scrope, of Danby, the male representative of the house of Scrope; and the barony of Scrope of Bolton appears to belong to Mr. Henry James Jones, heir-general of the same illustrious race; Mr. Lowndes, of Chesham, and Mr. Selby-Lowndes, of Whaddon, are coheirs to the baronies of Montacute and Monthermer; Sir Brooke W. Bridges is, in all probability, entitled to the barony of Fitz-Waller; Lord Dufferin is undoubtedly the senior heir of the Earls of Clanbrassil; Colonel Kemeyes-Tynte has established his coheirship to the barony of Wharton; Mr. Anstruther-Thomson, of Charleston, in the county of Fife, is heir-general of the St. Clairs, Earls of Orkney and Lords Sinclair; a Dillon is unquestionably in existence, the rightful Earl of Roscommon; and a FitzPatrick who ought to be Lord Upper Ossory; and Mr. O'Neill, of Shanes Castle, is the heir-general of the Lords O'Neill, as well as the possessor of their widespread estate.—Sir Bernard Burke's Dormant and Extinct Peerage.

GUILDHALL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

ON Tuesday afternoon a good display of articles manufactured by the various classes and trades of working men in the city of London was opened by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, many of the Aldermen, and a large number of the members of the Common Council. This Exhibition, though better in the class of objects it exhibits, is in its general design and scope almost precisely similar to the local displays of South London, North, and East London, which have been so frequent of late. The arrangement of the things is excellent. The objects, instead of hiding, set off each other; all are grouped with the best effect as to forms and colour; and, what is better still, all can be clearly and closely seen. The old hall is looking its best just now. The new carved oak roof and fresh decorations in colour have quite altered its previous barnlike style of architecture. The commemorative monuments, too, have been lowered so as to allow the really good windows of the hall to be seen, and also let in sufficient light for those in the hall to see around them. Banners have for this occasion been hung from the oaken roof; a splendid dais has been erected at the east end for the Lord Mayor; at the west end there is a temporary gallery for the organ and choir; the cold-looking gaps in the walls have been filled up with scarlet cloth; and, to aid the decorative effect, Mr. Bruciani has kindly lent a large number of those statue casts from the antique, for the artistic accuracy of which he is so justly celebrated. The show is ranged in double lines running due east and west of the hall, with ample space between them; while at the west end there is a spacious buffet for refreshments.

At one o'clock all the seats in the hall were crowded, and the band of the Rifle Brigade commenced performing a variety of selections, which helped to fill up the time most agreeably. At two o'clock the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr. Goschen, M.P., Sir R. W. Carden, and many members of the Court of Aldermen and Court of Common Council, entered the hall, and was received by Mr. Read, the chairman of the committee; Mr. Reeves, the treasurer; and Mr. W. Ramsey, the hon. sec. The Lord Mayor having taken his seat, and an address having been read, Mr. Ramsey read the report. This document stated that the City of London Working Men's Industrial Exhibition originated with a few working men, who, having visited various other exhibitions of a similar nature held in other parts of the metropolis, conceived the idea that it was but just to the artisans of the city of London that the same opportunity of displaying their industry and skill should be afforded to them. In this movement they were cordially supported by the late Lord Mayor, and some of the first merchants of the City had become guarantors to the fund, so that the committee was now relieved from all anxiety as to the pecuniary results of the undertaking. This help, and the hearty support bestowed upon the movement by the Court of Common Council in granting the use of the Guildhall, put the display beyond the possibility of failure, not only because of the influential patronage so bestowed, but also because of the large pecuniary saving effected in rent charge. It was the design of the promoters to make the City of London Working Classes Exhibition more beneficial and permanent in its results than any of its predecessors. The displays which had so deservedly received public approbation elsewhere had accomplished a limited object only. It was intended, however, to perpetuate the memory of this latest effort by applying its surplus funds to the foundation of a public free library in the City, thus securing to the artisan and his family a continual source of pleasure. At the conclusion of this address the Hallelujah Chorus was admirably sung by the choir, under the guidance of Mr. Benedict.

The Lord Mayor then addressed the assemblage in a few appropriate remarks, after which he declared the exhibition opened, and



KIOSK IN THE COURT OF THE TOMB OF THE MING DYNASTY AT PEKIN.



ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB OF THE MING DYNASTY.

proceeded to walk round and inspect its contents. Afterwards there was a very excellent concert of vocal music, and the visitors were allowed to pass freely and examine the collection, which includes objects which are more or less worth seeing under the following classifications:—Architectural models, designs, and drawings; books and bookbinding, curiosities, carvings, turnings in wood and other materials; drawings in crayon and pencil, water colours, and pen and ink; engravings on wood, metal, &c.; artificial flowers, feathers, and hair; frames, decorative furniture, and cabinet-work; graining, marbling, and paperhanging; glasswork for decorative purposes, and cut-glass; heraldry, illustrations; inventions for promoting domestic economy; inventions for protecting life by sea, rail, and road; iron and hardware; masonic and other jewellery; leather-work; boots and shoes; ladies' work and millinery; medical and surgical instruments; modelling in marble, plaster, and bronze; mechanism (working models); sewing-machines; musical instruments; naval architecture; paintings in oil; photography; scientific instruments; stuffed birds, insects, &c.; tailoring; wirework, watches, chronometers, and miscellaneous. Specially worthy of attention is the carved woodwork. There are very many samples of these, both of statuettes and flowers, and nearly all are by amateurs. The architectural designs and models of machinery which have been contributed from similar sources are also excellent. South Kensington has sent a fine case of works of art, the greater part of which, if we mistake not, consists of Mr. Elkington's electrotype reproductions of such works as the Cellini cup and Augsburg tankard. Mr. Rimmel has put up a beautiful scent-fountain, which plays all day gratis; and Mr. Benson has sent his collection of rare antique watches, which, as a private collection, is one of the best in London. The cases of butterflies and stuffed birds by amateurs form a chief feature; and Lord Granville, Lord Ellesmere, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Beresford Hope have each sent some choice works of mediæval and modern art. The Exhibition is to remain open for five weeks, and the admission fee is at present 6d.

THE PRISONS OF DUBLIN.

THE incarceration of numerous Fenians, or suspected Fenians, in the prisons of Dublin imparts a peculiar interest to those establish-

ments at the present time, and for that reason the accompanying Engravings of Richmond Bridewell and Mountjoy Prison will not be unwelcome to our readers. A few particulars regarding the Dublin prisons generally may be added:—

The gaol of the county of the city is Newgate, which is also the gaol for that part of the county of Dublin within the Circular-road. It was founded in 1773, and is situated in Green-street, beside the City Sessions House, on the north-west of the city. Contiguous to Newgate is the Sheriffs' prison for debtors, erected in 1794. The city Marshalsea is a small prison for debtors committed from the Lord Mayor's Court and Court of Conscience; the condition of this prison is very wretched. The Smithfield Penitentiary, erected at the charge of Government, is a house of correction for the reception of convicted offenders of both sexes; this prison is well conducted. The males are employed and instructed in weaving; the females in needlework, and in washing for the Sheriffs' prison and the gaol of Newgate. The Richmond Bridewell (from which Head-Centre Stephens made his escape so cleverly a short time ago), another Government establishment, is also a house of correction for male and female convicts. Weaving is the principal employment of the males; those sentenced to hard labour are put to the treadmill. The prisoners, on being discharged, are paid one third of the earnings of their labour. The current expenses of these establishments are defrayed by presentments of the grand jury of the county of the city, and in the year 1853 the gross outlay was £11,763. Besides these, there is the House of Industry, with lunatic asylum, hospitals, &c., attached, which is supported by an annual grant of £20,000 from Government.

The Four Courts Marshalsea prison is situated within the city, but is not connected with the Corporation. The county gaol of Kilmalmainham stands beyond the western suburbs, and is one of the most severe places of confinement in Ireland.

The Mountjoy prison, situated to the north of the city, and which is of recent erection, together with a prison on Spike Island, besides Richmond Bridewell and Kilmalmainham Gaol, have been appropriated, in whole or in part, to the accommodation of Fenian prisoners, who are becoming so numerous that room for them is now difficult to obtain. Complaints are made by the prisoners and their friends of harsh treatment; but no authentic facts have yet been made public.

SCENES IN CHINA.

THE GREAT STREET OF PEKIN.

OUR Engraving, which is taken from one of the beautiful water-colour drawings in M. Hildebrandt's Exhibition now being exhibited in London, represents the great street of the Chinese Imperial City, before that famous sack of the Summer Palace, which has done more to render the Celestial town really historical than ever its joss-houses and papier-mâché shops and summer haunts built of bamboo and rice paper would have done. The worst of it is, however (from a sentimental or artistic point of view), that that great loot and the subsequent incursions of rebels and friendly Europeans will effect such changes that the Pekin of the past will be almost forgotten in necessary innovations.

The city of Pekin, which lies on a great sandy plain between the rivers Pei-Ho and Hoen-Ho, is about forty miles from the Great Wall, and, being inclosed in another great wall of its own, is not very imposing on the first approach, since many of the buildings are entirely hidden. The entire circuit of the city is about twenty-five miles, and the wall surrounding it is 30 ft. high and about 25 ft. thick at the bottom, diminishing to a thickness of 12 ft. towards the top. It is faced nearly throughout with large bricks laid in mortar, and square towers, projecting 50 ft. outward from the wall itself, occur at intervals of about 60 yds., the whole being surrounded with a ditch, and entered by sixteen gates. The northern, or Tartar, city is built in the shape of a parallelogram, and consists again of three inclosures one within another, like a Chinese ivory puzzle-ball, each surrounded by its own wall, the innermost being called Kin-Ching (the prohibited or forbidden city), containing the Imperial palace (our readers must remember that we are writing of Pekin before the sack), the residence of the Royal family: this inclosure is about two miles in circumference, and the wall is covered with yellow tiles. The second inclosure, originally devoted to the officers of the Court, is now occupied by Chinese merchants and traders. It is an oblong square, about six miles in circuit, and with a wall some 20 ft. high. The third inclosure comprises the open city, with all the evidences of busy trade and that assiduous and minute industry peculiar to the Chinese.

Many of the principal streets of Pekin are remarkably spacious, being more than 100 ft. wide; but they are unpaved, and in rainy weather the muddy condition of the causeways contrasts strangely



THE GREAT STREET OF PEKIN.—(FROM A WATER-COLOUR PAINTING IN MRS. HILDEBRANDT'S COLLECTION.)

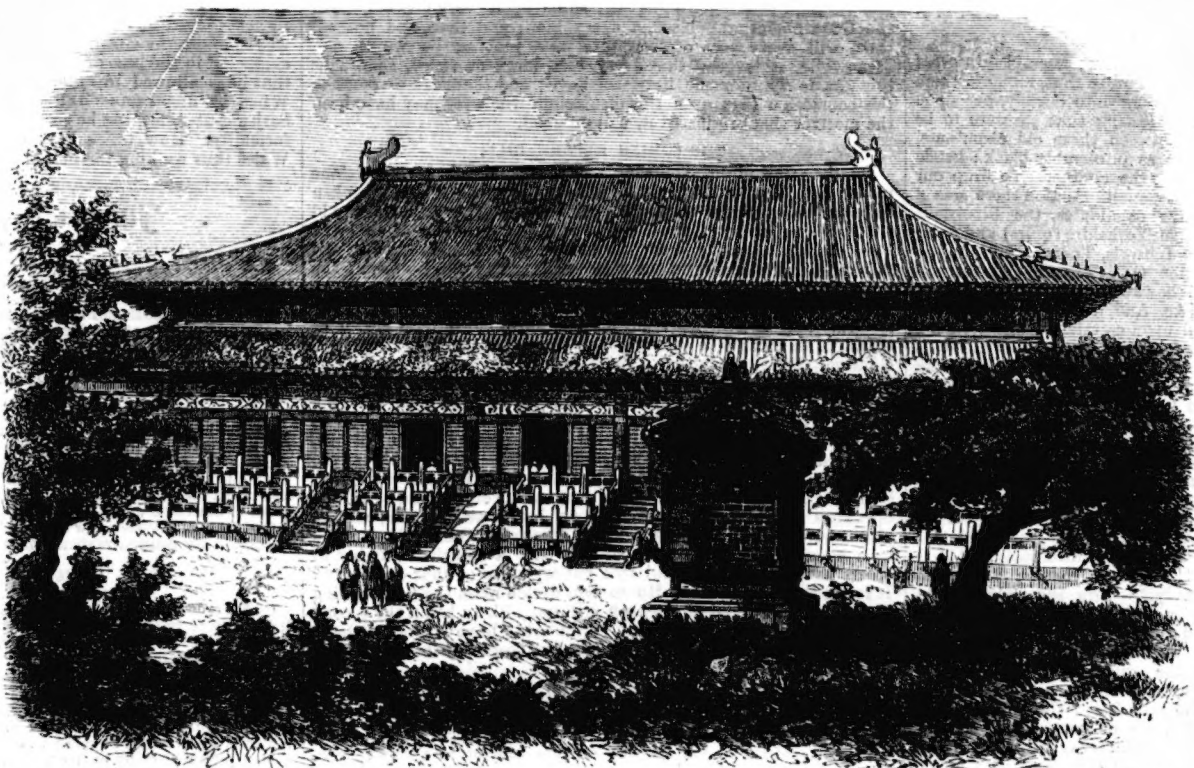
with the glittering and gaudy shops, shaped in all the fantastic forms of Chinese architecture, and many of them ornamented like European tea-trays.

Amongst the principal public buildings are the Temple of Eternal Peace, belonging to the Lamas; the Mohammedan mosque, the Observatory, the Church of Heaven's Lord, with a convent attached to it, and, though now in decay, once considered one of the finest buildings in the city; and various religious edifices—or rather the edifices and temples devoted to all religions, the principle of toleration having once, at all events, been recognised in the Imperial precincts. There are also several colleges and educational institutions. Peking is sustained solely by its being the seat of the Government, having no trade except that which is produced by the wants of its vast population. The principal part of the provisions required come from the southern provinces, or from the flocks reared in the northern parts of the district. A considerable portion of the taxes levied upon the productions of the whole empire is paid in kind and stored here, so that the amount of rice and other grain in the granaries at one period of the year is enormous; but they are often empty and the people half starved before the new crop is gathered. The numerous retinue of the Emperor and the multiplication of Government officials to absorb this public revenue will account for a great part of the want and misery of the inhabitants.

Peking is regarded by the Chinese as one of their most ancient cities; but it was not made the capital until its conquest by the Mongols, about 1282.

Captain Negroni—whose exhibition of the jewels and valuable objects obtained from the sack of the Summer Palace attracted so much attention at the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, last year, and is now removed to Piccadilly—gives some account of the Imperial City in his "Souvenirs of the Chinese Campaign." The Captain says:—"The exterior of Peking is most striking; it realises all the most extravagant dreams which have followed from learning that it is the largest and most populous city in the world. It is situated in an immense plain, rich in vegetation, and cultivated to perfection. The entrance on the eastern side is approached by a large and superb avenue paved with granite, at the end of which is a triumphal arch. The walls of the Tartar town are furnished with high towers, composed of several stages, and are of imposing appearance. In the interior the streets are large and regular—the street of Eternal Peace running from the east to the west, while to the north it is bordered by the walls of the Imperial Palace, and to the south by numerous mansions and public buildings.

"In the Chinese town the variety of merchandise displayed, and the grotesque but splendid gilding and carving of the innumerable shops, exhibit a gorgeous and fairy-like spectacle. The houses are hung with sentences and proverbs from the poets and philosophers; and the doors and walls, as well as the very furniture of the rooms, seem to glow and burn with brightly-varnished colours and japanned work.



THE HALL OF SACRIFICES IN THE TOMB OF THE MINGS AT PEKIN.

"The Imperial town contains most of the principal monuments, including the largest Imperial palace in the world. Its form is rectangular, and a great ditch lined with stone entirely surrounds it. Fine artificial hills in its centre are crowned by the higher hill, called 'Light;' and it is on this hill that the last Emperor of the Ming dynasty immolated his daughter, and afterwards hanged himself to a tree, rather than that he should fall into the hands of the rebel Li-Ten-Thing, his enemy.

"The summer palace at Yuen-Ming-Yuen is composed of a great cluster of buildings, whose varnished and gilded fronts, brilliant with colour, are separated by courts, gardens, and beds of sweet-smelling shrubs and flowers. The principal apartments being filled with all the objects of luxury which China could produce. But this is already a thing of the past; its glories were shorn from it during the allied occupation, and Peking itself may shortly yield to that inexorable progress of which the tramp of European armies is so often the melancholy signal."

THE TOMB OF THE MING DYNASTY.

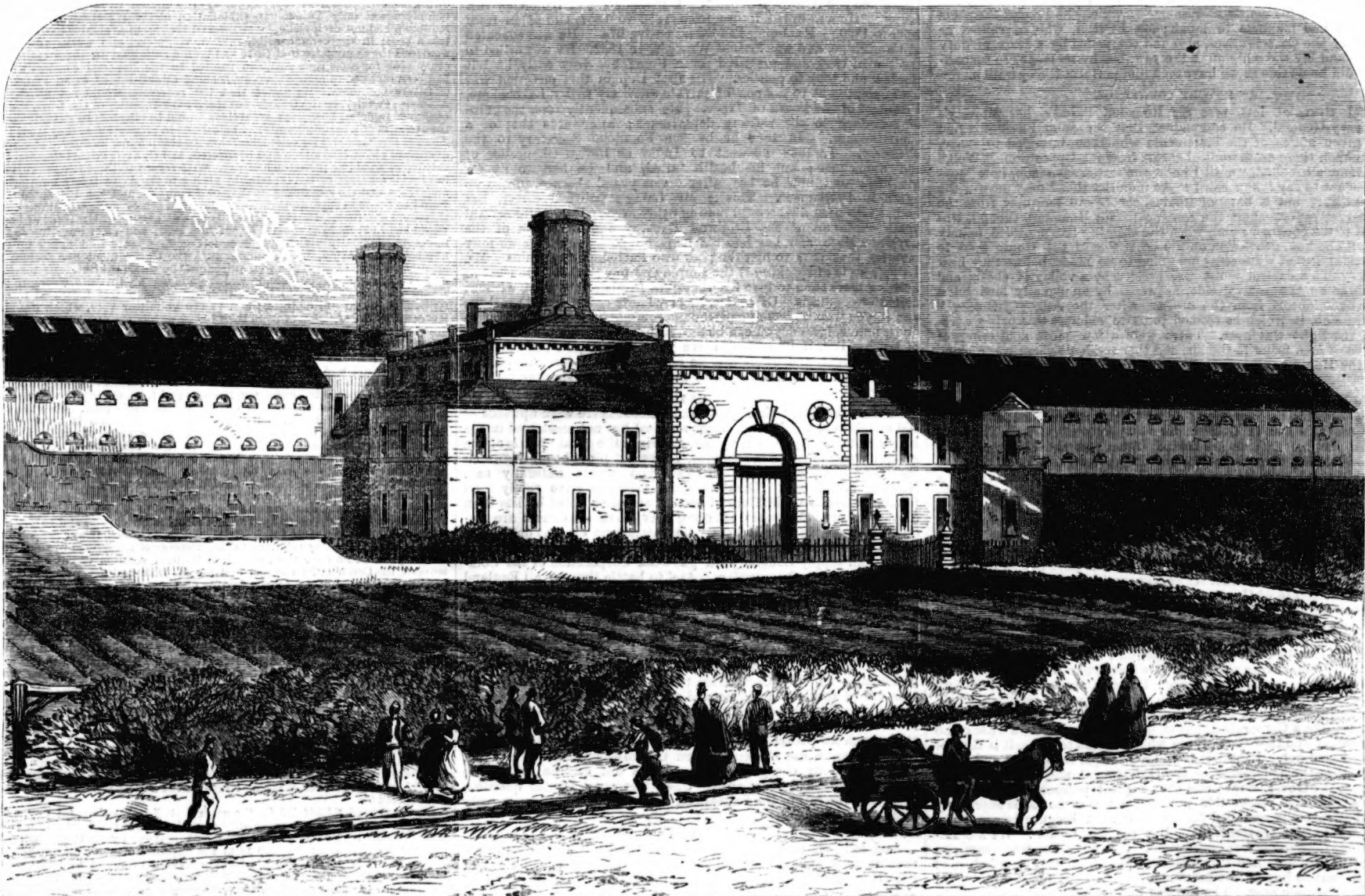
The Ming dynasty, which reigned over the central kingdom of China before they were superseded by the Manchou or present Tartar dynasty of the Tai-Sing, has left its tombs in a great valley about ten leagues to the north of Peking, and at the foot of the high mountains which stretch far into Mongolia. The narrow gorge of this funeral valley serves as an entrance to thirteen Imperial sepulchres; and the valley afterwards opens towards the picturesque mountains, where it terminates in an immense circular inclosure formed by the mountains themselves. In the interior of this vast amphitheatre are raised the superb mausoleums, whose gilded roofs blaze amidst the surrounding trees; and the whole soli-

tary precinct bears the name of Che-San-Ling.

About a league before arriving at this place, and on entering the mountain gorge, one reaches a triumphal arch; and further on a great gate, opening in three portals, covered with a peaked roof glistening with yellow varnish, and called the gate of the great palace. By this entrance the visitor reaches a kiosk named Pai-Ting, sheltering an immense stone covered with inscriptions, which rests on the back of a monstrous tortoise. The walls are pierced with four doorways, and the corners are supported by columns, the irregular roofs being ornamented with the usual figures of dragons and grotesque carvings.

From Pai-Ting one enters an avenue, not quite a mile in length, composed of enormous monoliths, representing successively couching lions, elephants, camels, civil and military mandarins, and officers of state. All these monuments are wonderfully well preserved in spite of the destructive climate of the country. The aspect of these immense figures of animals, interspersed with human forms in the attitude of prayer, produces a profound sensation of melancholy, like that which so often accompanies a visit to the Sphinx.

The Imperial sepulchres all consist of one great inclosing wall, which includes several courts communicating by doors, and a series of large saloons opening en suite. All of them are remarkably perfect, although the first building was constructed more than two centuries before the latest, the earlier being, in fact, in the most complete state of preservation. This is called Tchang-Ling, and is the tomb of Yong-Lo, the founder of the Ming dynasty; it occupies the summit of a hill, where it is shaded by trees of every variety, and is reached by a vast esplanade terminating a road in the midst of a gentle slope and paved with great stones. The building is inclosed by a high, rectangular wall, entered by a triple doorway giving access to an outer courtyard, where may be seen on the right a very beautiful kiosk, within which is another inscribed stone borne by a tortoise. The inner court is separated from the outer by a wall, in the midst of which is a monumental gate surrounded by a balustrade of white marble of exquisite workmanship. In this inner court stand two very beautiful little pagodas, formerly used for burning incense, and its centre is occupied by an immense saloon, called the hall of sacrifices, the appearance of which is singularly imposing. The interior of this building is reached by staircases of white sculptured marble with ornamented openwork balustrades. Four wooden columns, each made of a single tree, sustain a superb platform, inlaid with woods and ornamented in various colours. The roof is composed of yellow stones or tiles, supported by innumerable little beams carved and painted. Another door leads to a third courtyard, containing a triumphal arch, and at the back of this appears the tomb itself, leaning against the mountain, and having the appearance of the arched entrance to a rampart. It is surmounted by another kiosk, the dome of which shelters a third stone covered with inscriptions; but there is no indication of the precise spot where the Imperial sarcophagus is deposited.



MOUNTJOY PRISON, DUBLIN, WHERE NUMEROUS FENIANS ARE CONFINED.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 272.

POT AND KETTLE.

ON Thursday evening, last week, the members assembled in great force. It was not, though, the Navy Estimates that brought them together, but a notice of motion, on going into Supply, put upon the paper by Sir John Pakington, indicating that we were to be treated to an interesting altercation between those old disputants, pot and kettle—pot denouncing kettle as intolerably black; kettle denying the impeachment, and retorting the charge. To drop our figure, the case was this:—At the last general election there was a contest for Devonport: Conservative candidates, the illustrious William Busfield Ferrand (the notable Yorkshire squire) and John Fleming (merchant and shipowner); Liberals, Thomas Brassy (the wealthy contractor) and Thomas Phinn, Q.C. The winners, Ferrand and Fleming. Against this return, however, a petition has been lodged, alleging bribery, corruption, &c. And, it being necessary that Speaker's warrants should be served upon certain dockyard voters, summoning them to give evidence before the Election Committee, it came into the scheming head of Mr. Travers Smith, solicitor to the petitioners, to get permission to serve said warrants on these voters in the dockyards, and thus save the trouble of ferreting about the town to discover their residences. The Admiralty granted permission, and the agent of the solicitor got the dockyard authorities to assemble these voters in the sail-room, and there the warrants were served. Well, there was not much harm in this, if the agent had done no more; but, having got his men before him, he proceeded to question them—pump them, as the slang phrase is—to get out of them what evidence they would be likely to give; and this was the gravamen of the charge against the Admiralty. "It is black!" cried Pot. "Not at all!" rejoined Kettle; "or, at all events, not so black, but only shady." You see, when light is thrown upon it, the Admiralty had nothing to do with it; knew nothing about it, indeed. The dockyard authorities ordered their men to assemble in the sail-room, and the agent alone is responsible for the questioning. And for a couple of hours we had as pretty a storm in a teapot as you could wish to hear. Sir John, who introduced the subject, proceeded to his work with great solemnity of manner and tone, as if he were weighed down with the most awful sense of responsibility. It was "no party but a great Constitutional question" with which he had to deal; he was "compelled by a sense of duty" to bring the matter before the House, &c. And if Sir John was solemn and serious, so was Lord Clarence Paget when he gave his explanation. True, he was, as his custom is, very frank, and candid, and conciliatory; but he was also very solemn and serious. Here the matter might, we think, have been allowed to drop, and left to the Committee to investigate, who, if there has been any very great wrong done, will be sure to ferret it out. But not so thought the Conservative leaders. They saw that they had established a raw, and, one after another, they arose to apply the whip to the sore.

RETORT NOT COURTEOUS.

Lord Cranbourne leaped to his legs as soon as Lord Clarence sat down, of course, for you might as well expect that a thoroughbred bulldog would continue to doze with his head on his paws when the noise of a canine war resounds through the streets as that the noble Lord would sit quietly on his bench when a party scrimmage is going on. And here we must notice a smart passage of arms between Lord Cranbourne and Lord Clarence Paget:—

Lord Cranbourne: "If no notice had been taken of this Devonport case in the House, I ask you to imagine a telegram sent to Portsmouth ordering the Port Admiral to assemble the voters together to be cross examined by the Conservative attorney."

Lord Clarence (emphatically): "Upon my honour, I believe the same course would have been adopted."

Lord Cranbourne: "I give the noble Lord credit for (here he paused to think of a phrase that should be sharp and yet Parliamentary, and then added) the utmost presence of mind."

This double entendre was received with loud laughter and cheers. When the noble Lord sat down the contest got to be more angry, as naturally it would, for Lord Cranbourne is no peacemaker. In quick succession rose Mr. Lowe, who blamed the authorities in the dockyard, but defended the Duke of Somerset; Sir Hugh Cairns, fresh from abroad and renewed in health, who argued the case like a lawyer; the Solicitor-General, who, not having heard the debate, bungled; Mr. Walpole, who gave us a serious homily in appropriate style; the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who complimented Sir John Pakington on his conscientiousness—at which the Liberal members had the bad manners to laugh; Mr. Disraeli, who, of course, as leader of the Conservatives, also felt compelled by a sense of duty to rise and lay the whip on to the raw, but by no means so successfully did he do this as we have seen him perform the operation.

RETORT COURTEOUS.

And then, at last, rose Sir Roundell Palmer, her Majesty's Attorney-General. He complained that Sir John Pakington had not given notice of the statements which he intended to make, whereupon there arose ironical cheers from the Opposition. "Well," Sir Roundell replied, "until I know the statement made, how" (he meant to say "how can I make inquiries that I may answer the statement?" but a burst of ironical cheers and laughter from the Conservatives cut short the sentence). Sir Roundell, though, was equal to the occasion; and, when the cheering had subsided, calmly said, "The hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House seem to understand what statements are going to be made before they hear them." This capital retort was greeted by a volley of cheers and laughter on the Liberal side, answered by an equally loud burst of defiant cheers from the other. After the Attorney-General's able speech, in which he seemed to us to exhaust this paltry question, the fight was over. There were a few more sputterings of fire, as of men firing in the air, and then suddenly there was a calm, and the House passed on to other business.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

We have treated this question lightly. Perhaps our readers may think with too little gravity; but let them remember that we and they see this matter from a different point of view. They are before the curtain; we are behind it, and see the dirty ropes and tallow-candles, and the performers in undress, and know how the lightning and thunder are made. To our readers it may appear a very serious question. "To us it is a mere affair of pot and kettle. If a Conservative Government had committed this impropriety, the Liberal party would have denounced it as the Conservatives have done. Lord Clarence would have acted pot; Sir John would have performed the part of kettle. Two or three years ago the Liberal leaders, then out, brought against the Conservative chiefs, then in, a charge of giving a contract for packet service to Mr. Churchill to secure the return of Conservative candidates for Dover, and on that occasion all the Liberal party rallied to support the charge and all the Conservatives to defend it. That was thought a serious charge, and it was proved before a Committee of the House; and innocent outsiders may be disposed to wonder how Sir John Pakington and his colleagues, having swallowed this monstrous Dover camel, could strain at the small Devonport goat. But dream not, readers, that we think that the Liberal party, if the opportunity had occurred, would have acted differently. Our experience leads us to the conclusion that a party, like a Corporation, has in these election matters little or no conscience, and that the only sin which it fears to commit is that of being found out. Indeed, it is still a principle recognised and acted upon, that the patronage of the Government may be exercised to support the Government; and that a great personage may be put into a high and responsible position, not because he is supremely fitted or specially qualified for the place, but because he can bring support to the Government. But courage, reader! We are improving, though far from perfection. It is not a hundred years ago since the Monarch and Prime Minister sent hard cash to members of Parliament to buy or reward them for their support. Nothing of this sort is done now. The light of public opinion is too bright now for such dark transactions; and it will grow brighter and more penetrating. Tennyson sings of

That fierce light which shines upon a throne,
And blackens every blot;

and in time this fierce light will shine upon every department of the Government, and blacken every blot; and then, and not till then, will every blot of corruption and jobbing be wiped out. Meanwhile, it is good that every blot, large or small, should be brought fairly into the light we have; and therefore we come to the conclusion that even this discussion, whatever may have been the motives that originated it, will do good.

THE COMING REFORM BILL.

On the same night, Thursday, the 1st of March, Mr. Gladstone rose in his place, and announced, amidst silence as of death, broken only by the speaker's voice, that on Monday, the 12th, he should ask leave to bring in the long-promised and anxiously-expected Reform Bill. Monday, then, will be one of the great days of the Session, and the debate on the night of that day will be one of the grandest debates. In prospect of this, already the seats in all the galleries are bespoken. On Monday last, as soon as the Sergeant-at-Arms appeared in his seat, he was surrounded by a crowd of members all anxious to put their names down for places in the Ladies' Gallery. Each member has a right to put his name down for two ladies a week beforehand, and the rule is, first come first served. But as it was impossible to tell who had come first, the Sergeant, according to custom, adjourned to the division lobby, and there the applicants had to ballot for places; and, of course, more than half of them were disappointed. The list for the Speaker's Gallery is also filled up. The book for his gallery is opened also a week beforehand; but at twelve o'clock in the Speaker's secretary's room, and in an hour, we are told, all the places were taken. Admission to the Strangers' Gallery is obtained by a member's order; and we suspect that a sufficient number of orders have been given to fill this gallery three or four times over. It is not expected that the House will divide upon the first reading of the bill. The trial of strength will most likely be on the second reading. We shall, however, it is thought, have a great debate, and certainly a grand oration from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

ORATORY.

On the following night (Friday) we had, on the whole, a good debate on a great question—the inviolability of private property at sea in time of war. Mr. Gregory, the member for the county of Galway, moved an address to her Majesty on this subject, in a long speech. Mr. Gregory would fain be an impressive speaker, but he is not; and this is the reason why:—He aims too high. He tries to soar away on oratorical wings; but, because his pinions are weak, he can never do more than flutter a few feet above the dead level of plain, prosaic speaking, and always seems—painfully so to his hearers—about to fall utterly and drop ignominiously to the ground. He would, in short, be an orator, but has not the power. If he would but confine himself to plain prosaic debating, he would be a more effective speaker. Oratorical powers are the gift of Heaven, and are very sparingly conferred upon mortals. Are there a dozen orators at this moment in all England? In the pulpit region oratory has long since died out. At the Bar, it is scarcely needed now there are no State prosecutions; there is no demand, and there is no supply. Whilst in the House of Commons, which used to be considered the great nursery, we have three—certainly not more. Indeed, we question whether the whole civilised world can furnish more than a score or so of real orators. Then why should speakers aim at what would seem to be almost an impossibility? But think not that Mr. Gregory's was a bad speech. This would be a mistake. It was a reasonably good speech; and, as we read it in a morning paper on the following day, without the disadvantage of Mr. Gregory's misplaced action and emphasis and pumping for effect, and with all or most of the repetitions and other redundancies combed off, we found it a really good speech. What capital taste those stenographers in the gallery have! Had we to make a speech in the House we should take them as our guides, and try to deliver our speech as they would accept it and report it verbatim. Do not, then, the reporters report verbatim? We think we hear some reader ask. Happily, no, we should say; happily, for both readers and speakers. Indeed, if the reporters were to take down some of the speeches verbatim, the speakers would, for very shame, never speak again. Fancy, for example, a verbatim report of one of the rambling, incoherent speeches of Mr. Darby Griffith!

MR. LAING.

The best speeches of the evening were those delivered by Mr. Laing and the Attorney-General. Our readers will remember Mr. Laing. He was in the House from 1852 to 1857, and again from 1859 to 1860. Mr. Laing has led an active life. He was educated at Cambridge, and was Second Wrangler in 1832. He was called to the Bar in 1840, and practised for a time; but very early he left the law and took to politics. His first step in this direction was his appointment to the post of private secretary to Mr. Labouchere, President of the Board of Trade. He subsequently took the office of secretary to the railway department; afterwards that of a commissioner. In 1858 he became Financial Secretary to the Treasury. In 1860 he went to India as Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer; but his health failed, and he had to fly for his life; and now he has, after seven years' absence, turned up again in Parliament. This is Mr. Laing's political career, but he has also been a successful man in other ways. He was for several years chairman of the Brighton Railway and chairman of the Crystal Palace, and has left his mark on both; and here we may mention that it is to him the poor owe Parliamentary trains. Mr. Laing's style of speaking is the simple and unadorned. He aims at nothing more than to give his thoughts in plain language, without action or emphasis. Of course, he is what is called a cold speaker; and if you wish to have your feelings roused, he is not the man to do it, unless, indeed, you can be moved by a plain, simple statement of truth. But, if he cannot move your feelings, he can influence your judgment, and, therefore, we may call him a forcible speaker. In short, Mr. Laing is a very able man and a good speaker.

GAS.

On Tuesday last, at half-past four o'clock, there were upwards of 400 members in the House. Such a crowd has not assembled in the House at this early hour for years, not since the great "battle of the gauges" used to shake the spheres. And what brought all these men together? Some imperial interest, you would naturally say. Nothing of the sort. Great imperial interests have rarely such forcible attraction. Millions of money are often voted by less than fifty members. Measures affecting every man in Britain are frequently passed in thin Houses. The attraction on that day was a fight between the London Corporation and the City Gas Companies. Who shall supply London with gas—the Corporation or the Companies? that was the question. And to battle thereon all England had been moved; circulars had been sent to every provincial town in the kingdom, "Gas at 2s. 6d. a thousand, and no monopoly; compel your members to come, and you will break up your own grinding monopoly." This was the war-cry of the Corporation; whilst the monopolists had agitated the gas companies: "Help us to stop this moribund Corporation, for if we be swallowed, your turn will come next. Gas Companies, then, to the rescue!" And hence this crowd inside the House and out of it. It was, as one said, a case of breeches-pocket, and no case can be more powerful than this, or the like of it. Better infringe upon an Englishman's liberties than touch his pocket. Of the debate we need say nothing. But a strange scene was witnessed when the division bells were rung, and the police charging the strangers out of the lobby, the members streamed in to vote. Upon the great Danish question, involving the fate of the Palmerston Government, there was scarcely more excitement.

A ROYAL PRINCE IN A CROWD.

And lo! just as the decision was over, when the strangers were rushing back to hear the result, and members were pouring out of the House, who should appear in the lobby but the Prince of Wales; he, too, had come to see and hear the row, attended by the Duke of St. Albans, and, to his great surprise, suddenly found himself hemmed in by a mob of people. Here was a position for a Royal Prince; but there was no help for it. If Royal Princes will march about incog, they must expect to rough it like

common people. Nor did his Royal Highness seem to mind it; rather enjoyed it, we fancy; for, when he had threaded his tortuous way through the crowd and got safely landed in the House, he was evidently in the best of humours. Indeed, it is by his own request that he is allowed to enter the House without state or ceremony. When he first came down he was received in due form by the Sergeant-at-Arms, but he soon relieved himself of this encumbering formality. How times have changed! Fancy the last Prince of Wales thus walking familiarly amongst the people!

Imperial Parliament

FRIDAY, MARCH 2.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DEVONPORT ELECTION PETITION.

The Duke of SOMERSET denied that he had in any way been concerned in the proceedings at the Devonport Dockyard in reference to the petition against the sitting members for the borough.

The Earl of DERBY had a fling at the proceedings, and elicited from the Duke of Somerset the announcement that Mr. Phinn denies having any thing to do with the petition.

THE LATE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

The Earl of DERBY made a statement in reference to the manner in which the trustees of the late King of the Belgians had discharged their trust. From this it seems that some of the pensioners of the late King have, through their allowance being stopped, been reduced to poverty. The noble Earl also stated that the Queen had desired the ex-Queen of France to continue to reside at Claremont.

Earl RUSSELL made a few explanations on the subject, and promised that the case of the pensioners should have consideration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RATING FOR RELIEF OF THE POOR.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, a discussion arose upon the subject of rating to the relief of the poor, in the course of which Mr. VILLIERS stated, in answer to Mr. S. Cave and Mr. Kekewich, that it was not his intention to bring in a bill for the purpose of rating mines and woods; but he did contemplate reintroducing a general measure for the amendment of the poor law.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW.

Mr. GREGORY moved an address to the Queen requesting her to use her influence with foreign Powers for the purpose of making the principle that private property should be free from capture by sea a maxim of international maritime law, which led to a long debate. The motion was ultimately withdrawn.

MONDAY, MARCH 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the bill to make parties to a divorce suit capable, but not compellable, to answer any question as to whether they have or have not committed adultery.

Lord CHELMSFORD opposed the bill, and, after some discussion, there were, on a division, twenty-nine for and twenty-nine against the measure, which was thus negatived.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced that the Reform Bill he should introduce on Monday evening next would only refer to England and Wales, but on that day he hoped to be able to say what would be done with the other parts of the United Kingdom. In reply to a further question from Mr. Hunt, the Chancellor of the Exchequer explained that in speaking, the other evening, of a revision of the statistics he simply meant a revision of the press. He could give the assurance that the tables would be circulated not later than Saturday morning.

THE LATE TRANSACTIONS IN JAMAICA.

Mr. BRIGHT wished to know if all the despatches relating to the recent massacre in Jamaica, and written by officers in the Army and Navy, would be laid before the Commissioners.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that, as Sir Henry Storks was at once Chief Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of the island, all the despatches written by officers in the Army would come under his notice. As to the Navy, the case was different; and the Admiralty had been precluded from ordering the Admiral to cause the reports written by officers under him to be laid before the Commission, on the ground that the officers had not been warned against incriminating themselves before they wrote the reports. The Admiralty had, however, requested Admiral Hope to give the Commissioners all the assistance in his power.

Mr. BRIGHT gave notice that, if all the despatches were not produced either in Jamaica or in this country, he should bring forward a distinct motion to have them laid on the table of the House.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON moved the Army Estimates, which he stated involved a reduction of £250,000 as compared with last year, though, owing to diminution of repayments by the Indian Government, the net reduction was only £6500. In explanation of the reasons why a greater reduction had not been made, he mentioned that an unavoidable increase had taken place in the commissariat, militia, volunteer, and works votes, and reminded the Committee that there had been a reduction in these estimates every year for some time past, and pointed to the imperative orders which had been sent out to reduce the New Zealand establishment as an assurance of future reduction. He stated that the reduction would not affect the Artillery, Cavalry, or the Guards, but merely the Infantry of the Line, and he explained in detail how these reductions would be effected, by cutting down the strength of a certain number of battalions in proportion as they stood low down in the "roster" for colonial service. In this manner he showed that a reduction of about 4500 men would be effected, and eighty-two captains and 164 subalterns would be placed on half-pay. With regard to these it was proposed to provide for sixty of the captains by giving to the Army thirty unattached majorities, and the remaining twenty-two captains and the 164 subalterns would be borne as supernumeraries on the strength of their battalions until they were absorbed. He stated that by this arrangement the force at home would be 57,991 men, as against 59,624 last year, and after referring to the increasing difficulty which had been felt of late years in keeping up the numbers of the Army, he announced that the Government had decided to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole subject. He touched next on the commissariat vote, in which there was an increase, owing to the rise in the price of meat; to the militia vote, which was increased by the renewal of the militia clothing; and to the volunteer vote, which was also increased by the addition of more than 10,000 men to the number of efficient draughting the Government grant. Passing to the manufacturing vote, he referred to the report on the Whitworth and Armstrong trials, explaining that, while pointing out the merits of both systems, it did not assign the palm to either, and announced that the Government, feeling that Mr. Whitworth had made out a case for practical trial, had ordered from him one 7-in. gun and two 9-in. guns, and had directed from twenty to twenty-five 9-in. Woolwich guns to be rifled on Mr. Whitworth's plan. He gave the Committee detailed information as to the progress which is being made in the manufacture of heavy ordnance, and the state of our establishments in this respect; and, passing to the subject of small-arms, he described the elaborate but hitherto unsuccessful attempts which had been made to obtain an efficient breech-loading rifle. This difficulty, he stated, was felt by foreign Governments, and he also stated that orders had been given to alter a certain number of Enfield of Mr. Schneider's principle, at a cost of some 15s. each, by which temporary expedient it was hoped opportunity would be afforded for careful and exhaustive trials. He described some administrative changes which it was proposed to make, and concluded by referring to the existence of Fenianism in the Army, assuring the Committee that, though individual soldiers might have been seduced, the Commander-in-Chief and Sir H. Rose had never for a moment had any serious doubt as to the loyalty of the Army, and that the recent suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act had struck a blow at Fenianism in the Army which it would never recover.

General PEEL, after criticising some arithmetical blunders in the Estimates, expressed his gratification at the announcement of a Royal Commission on recruiting, and hoped that the House would undertake an inquiry into the management of the Army Reserve Fund. He discussed the plan of reduction, condemning the dismissal of a single drilled soldier from the Army at the present moment, and warned the Committee that, in the present unsettled state of our armaments, no great reduction was possible. He also condemned the excessive expenditure in the Administrative departments, pointing particularly to the large amount for pensions and retiring allowances.

A long and desultory discussion followed on the various topics connected with the Estimates, after which the votes settling the number of men on the general staff and regimental and military educational establishments at 188,117, and the number of Indian troops on the British establishment at 178, were agreed to.

On the vote of £5,362,400 for the general staff and regimental pay, a discussion was raised on the expediency of maintaining the Hythe and Fleetwood Schools of Musketry on the present system, by Sir C. Russell, who moved the omission of £10,000 from the expenses of those establishments. Ultimately, the Marquis of Hartington having promised to institute an inquiry into the system of teaching, the amendment was withdrawn and the vote agreed to, after a motion to report progress had been negatived by 55 to 43.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat for a very short time. Earl Grey stated that, at the request of his noble friend at the head of the

Government, he should postpone the motion on the state of Ireland, of which he had given notice for Friday next, until Friday in the following week.

Earl Granville read a report from Professor Simonds describing the results of the treatment of Baron Rothschild's herd by means of Mr. Worms's remedy, and which were of a very unfavourable character. The report also expressed regret that the method which at one time was thought would prove a successful specific had turned out to be a failure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. LONDON CORPORATION GAS BILL.

The second reading of the London (City) Corporation Gas Bill, the object of which was to enable the Corporation to construct works and manufacture gas for the supply of the district within its jurisdiction, was moved by Mr. CRAWFORD, who urged the passing of the measure in justice to the consumers, on the ground that the gas supplied by the existing monopolies was bad in quality, insufficient in quantity, and excessive in price.

Lord CRANBOURNE moved and Mr. ADAIR seconded, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months, presenting as reasons for rejecting the measure the fact that the Corporation had not availed itself of the protective powers contained in the Metropolitan Gas Act (1860), and that to set aside that Act would be a breach of faith with the companies.

Sir G. GREY recommended that the second reading should be agreed to, and the bill referred in the ordinary way to a Select Committee, with an instruction to inquire into the operation of the Metropolitan Gas Act, when, if it should turn out that the quality of the gas now supplied was good, the quantity adequate, and the price not excessive, the bill could be thrown out. Whilst, if the inquiry led to a different conclusion, the bill could then be proceeded with, and passed into a law.

Mr. ROEBUCK, glancing at the crowded state of the benches, and the general excitement that prevailed, observed that the bearing of the House proved that the House itself was a very unfit tribunal to decide upon the question at issue. Could anybody doubt that it had been packed for the occasion? Members had been canvassed and written to, and by whom? By the gas companies. Then he asked the House, for its own honour, to send the bill to a Committee, and not to take upon itself in this unseemly way to decide the question.

The House having divided, the amendment was negatived by 219 to 193. The bill was thereupon read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee of twelve members, of whom five are to be nominated by the committee of selection.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS IN PRISONS.

Mr. HIBBERT obtained leave to bring in a bill to permit capital punishment to be carried out, under certain regulations, within the interior of prisons.

Sir G. GREY did not oppose the introduction of the bill, but stated that a measure was in preparation by the Under Secretary of State embodying the principal recommendations of the Royal Commissioners on capital punishment.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES ABOLITION BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7. HOUSE OF COMMONS. CHURCH RATES.

Mr. HARDCASTLE moved the second reading of the Church Rates Abolition Bill. In his view total abolition would be a real reform in the interest of the Established Church itself, and would constitute no danger to the union subsisting between Church and State.

Mr. WALPOLE, in moving that the bill be read a second time that day six months, reminded the House that the late Parliament had agreed to a resolution that it was not just or expedient to abolish church rates without providing some equivalent, and appealed to the House whether it was prepared to reject that resolution, and whether it was reasonable that those ancient and customary rates which had existed from time immemorial should be absolutely taken away until some other substitute was found, by means of which the obligation to support the fabric of the Church and provide for the decent celebration of Divine service should be discharged. The question which the House had to decide, then, was if it were just and expedient to abolish church rates, without some equivalent, merely for the benefit of putting the amount of the charge into the pockets of the landed proprietors, or to deprive the people of this country of that which they had a right to—the maintenance of their churches and the celebration of Divine service in every parish and hamlet in the kingdom.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was most desirable that a settlement should be arrived at, but he was one of those who were not prepared to accede to the simple and unconditional abolition of church rates, for its practical result would in rural districts be to throw upon the clergy a burden which would be most unjust, and have the effect of making fresh demands for secular purposes upon time which ought to be devoted to spiritual work among their parishioners. And, further, he objected to the principle of intrusting the management of the affairs connected with the maintenance of the fabric and the services of the Church to those who declined to bear the charge of doing so. To abolish church rates and leave to every ratepayer the right of sharing in the disposal of funds to which he had refused to contribute would be but the introduction of a fresh injustice. If, then, he were to understand that the bill was a simple measure of abolition, he could not vote for it; but when the mover of the bill came to reply on the debate, perhaps he would be prepared to state that he was willing to accept some equitable compromise by which Dissenters would be exempted from the payment of church rates, but disqualified from interfering in the application of funds which they had taken no part in raising.

Mr. BRIGHT said that anything like a compromise on the principle on which the bill was brought forward was impossible; but, without sacrificing principle, he thought there was a course which might be taken that would be satisfactory to Dissenters and not offensive to Churchmen. He suggested, therefore, that the bill should be read a second time now, and, in Committee, clauses should be so framed as to get rid of the compulsory power of collection, and leave all the other powers as they now stood, so that the vestry might meet and determine upon the sum to be expended and the amount of the rate. Thus there would be an optional rate from all the ratepayers, and he was not sure that there were not a great many Dissenters who, whilst refusing to pay church rates, would be willing to add something for the maintenance of the Church.

Mr. HARDCASTLE, in answer to the appeal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that he and his friends were not prepared to assent to any proposal that would in the slightest degree endanger the principle of the bill, which was the abolition of the compulsory rate. If, however, the second reading were carried, he would at a future stage entertain, with the greatest respect and consideration, any proposal which might be made embodying an arrangement such as had been shadowed out.

The House divided, when there appeared, for the amendment, 252; against it, 285; majority against the amendment, 33. The bill was then read a second time. The Chancellor of the Exchequer went into the same lobby with the majority, and as he entered the House at the bar was greeted with loud cheers from the Radical benches.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CATTLE PLAGUE BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE moved that the House go into Committee on this bill, the report of the Select Committee having been brought up, and also that the House should consider the standing orders, Nos. 37 and 38, in order to their being dispensed with.

The several clauses were then dealt with in order, a few verbal alterations and additions being made in some, and considerable desultory discussion ensuing thereon.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COOLIE EMIGRATION.

Mr. M. GIBSON, in reply to Mr. B. Cochrane, said the loss of life in the coolie emigration ships in those voyages which were called by seamen the voyages of death, had been a subject of considerable anxiety to the Home Government.

PARLIAMENTARY OATHS AMENDMENT BILL.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of this bill.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved that it be read a second time that day six months, and presented upwards of 100 petitions against the bill.

Mr. DISRAELI should not oppose the motion, as he was desirous that a uniform oath should be constructed, but gave notice that he should move amendments to the form proposed, that we acknowledged the allegiance due to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, as limited by the Act of Settlement, and recognising the supremacy of the Queen in the courts established by law.

Mr. BRIGHT said that if the word "defend" in the oath meant by arms it would impose an affirmation on some members from which they had been exempt ever since they had been admitted to seats in the House.

Sir G. GREY did not consider the amendments of the right hon. gentleman at all necessary; for the succession to the throne did not depend on the oath of allegiance, but on the Act of Settlement, and it would be quite sufficient to take the oath of allegiance to the reigning Sovereign. However, the Government would consider the amendments with the same candour as that shown by the right hon. gentleman. The point referred to by the hon. member (Mr. Bright) would also be considered.

After some further discussion the House divided, when Mr. Newdegate's amendment was negatived by a majority of 298 against 5.

THE CASE OF MR. FERGUSON AND THE DETECTIVE.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN called the attention of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to a recent case in which a gentleman, returning at night from a professional engagement, was violently attacked on a public highway, and moved for certain papers connected with the matter. The motion, after some modification, was agreed to.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates.

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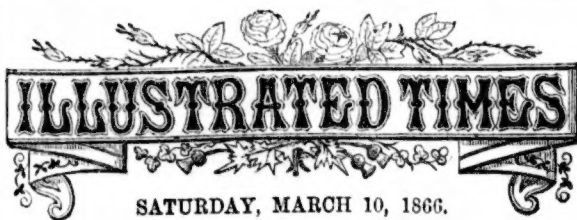
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THE SICK POOR.

THE sick poor and the vagrant poor should in no wise be confounded with each other, though, of course, members of the one class will occasionally be found mingled with the other; that is, some of the vagrant poor may be sick and some of the sick poor may be vagrants. But as a whole they are perfectly distinct in their characteristics, and should consequently receive a different style of treatment. When we speak of "sick poor," we mean of course all persons suffering from disease, accidents, or any sort of bodily ailment, as distinguished from those hale and sturdy vagrants who make up a large proportion of the occupants of casual wards in our workhouses. The first class—the sick—deserve the full sympathy of society, and are entitled to proper accommodation, attendance, and means of curing their ailments. The second class—the strong, sturdy vagrants—have no claim upon the community for more than decent shelter and the necessities of existence. To provide more would be to encourage idleness at the expense of industry—to feed the lazy and dissipated at the expense of the hardworking and the frugal. But, for its own sake—to avoid shocking its own sense of propriety—society is bound to afford to the homeless, the naked, and the destitute, of whatever character, decent shelter, clothing, and food, always coupled with the rigid enforcement of a real labour test. Beyond this, as it appears to us, it would be unwise to go; and therefore we must guard against allowing the sympathy which has recently been awakened on behalf of the poor generally degenerating into an indiscriminating provision for all the lazy, idle, improvident, and often criminal vagabonds who infest our towns and cities and roam over the country, preying upon society and absorbing that sympathy and relief which should be reserved for really needy and deserving sufferers. There is no necessity for treating the healthy casual as a mere brute, as has been, and still is, too often done; but neither must we make a pet of him, as we have of late years done with criminals, and so render a life of idleness and crime more desirable than one of honest, sober industry.

The case of the really sick poor, however, stands on a totally different footing, and should not for one moment be regarded in the same light. For such sufferers good hospital accommodation, efficient nursing, properly-qualified medical attendance, suitable diet, good medicine—in short, all the appliances necessary for comfort and cure—should be furnished with no grudging hand. Out of the abundant wealth among us, those who need aid and cannot help themselves should be provided for. And the more decided is our course of dealing with professional mendicancy the better shall we be able to discharge our duty to the truly necessitous. Indeed, it is a curious fact that wherever mendicancy prevails hospital accommodation is deficient. In Italy, where beggars do most abound, the hospitals are contemptible; in France, where mendicants have been "put down" in a style that would have satisfied even Sir Peter Laurie, the hospitals are the finest and the best-managed in the world. There may be no inevitable sequence in these facts, but there is at least a remarkable and instructive coincidence.

The care of the sick poor has hitherto mainly devolved upon the guardians and other administrators of the poor law; and wretchedly have they broken down in the performance of their duty. The workhouse infirmaries are neither situated, constructed, nor managed as they should be; the nursing, generally done by paupers, is just as good as no nursing at all; the medical attendants are overtasked and underpaid; the dietary and medicine supplied are deficient in quantity and bad in quality; and the consequence is, as Mr. Farnall has declared, that going into a workhouse infirmary means never coming out of it again—alive.

All this must be changed; and the question for public consideration is, How can the change be best carried out? Two plans for accomplishing this object have been proposed. One is to leave the task of providing for the sick poor still in the hands of the poor-law officials, but compelling them to do their duty in a thoroughly efficient manner. But there are grave difficulties in the way. Parish vestries and union guardians are composed of men who serve voluntarily, and it is difficult to compel volunteers to act. Besides, knowing, as we do, what the character of poor-law officials is, and how they have managed—or, rather, mismanaged—this matter hitherto, can we safely confide to their hands a work which, for its proper performance, requires a thorough system of personal responsibility, and great energy, skill, and experience? We think not. In the hands which have hitherto had the control of the provision made for the sick poor, the work has been bungled, and would be bungled still. We are therefore inclined to favour the other scheme proposed—we

mean that embodied in the resolutions adopted at the meeting in Willis's Rooms on Saturday last. This plan is to take the care of the sick poor entirely out of the hands of the local poor-law officials; to have a complete organisation for the purpose—hospitals, doctors, nurses, and so forth; the whole to be supported from independent sources—by rates levied for the special purpose—and managed by agency completely separate from the existing poor-law machinery. This project would require for its accomplishment a considerable outlay at first; but the cost would be spread over a large area—the whole kingdom, in fact—and would therefore fall more lightly than a local rate; it would, moreover, be effective, and would probably be worked more cheaply in the end than the existing system. But no mere question of expense should be allowed to stand in the way. The object is to remove a reproach and a stigma from the land; there is wealth enough in it to defray the cost; the object is worthy of the sacrifice; and humanity of feeling demands that it should be made. Made, therefore, it ought to be; and we hope that the movement commenced under such excellent auspices on Saturday last will not be allowed to flag till ample accommodation, efficient nursing, and effective medical attendance are provided for all the sick poor in the land. We have already in existence several admirably-managed hospitals, but their capacity is inadequate to the emergency. They might, however, be included in the general system, and so utilised both as models and as an important integral portion of the scheme. Though naturally taking its rise in the metropolis, the hospitals-for-sick-poor movement is not to be confined in its range, but is designed to embrace the whole country. The whole country is consequently interested, and should take the matter into consideration, and lend a hand to carry out the scheme.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée at St. James's Palace on Wednesday. The attendance was very numerous.

PRINCE ALFRED will shortly be created a peer, under the title of the Duke of York. At present he is not entitled to sit in the House of Lords.

THE LISTS FOR ALL HER MAJESTY'S COURTS are now closed, and no further names can be received by the Lord Chamberlain.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF FRANCE has had the measles, but in a very mild form, and is progressing favourably.

PRINCE COUZA (late Hospodar of Roumania) is rich, and has valuable landed property in that part of Bessarabia which belongs to Russia.

THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT has been murdered by the insurgent tribes on the coast.

THE KING OF ITALY has conferred the title of Baron on Mr. S. Kirkup, an English artist residing at Florence, whose attention of late years has been directed to the investigation and illustration of the poems of Dante.

DR. WHEWELL, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, who met with a serious accident a few days since, expired on Tuesday. We intend publishing a Portrait of this eminent scholar in our next number.

THE ELECTION FOR RICHMOND, Yorkshire, terminated, on Tuesday, in the return of Mr. Wyvill. Mr. Roberts had only thirteen votes. Both candidates were Liberals.

M. EMILE DE GIRARDIN has decided to become the political editor of the *Liberté*, assisted by his friends, MM. Clement Duvernois and Vermorel.

HEAVY SNOWSTORMS have fallen in the Isle of Wight. In some parts of the island the snow lay 3 in. deep. Heavy falls of snow have likewise taken place in Scotland.

THE SPANISH COUNCIL OF WAR has condemned General Prim and other rebels to be shot—when captured.

THE SUM OF £496 a year is allowed to the Lords of the Admiralty for oil, and £147 a year to the Secretaries.

THE BANDA and KIRWEE PRIZE MONEY CASE has terminated, and Dr. Lushington has taken time to consider the case. The expenses are estimated at £50,000.

A NEGOTIATION, it is said, is in progress between the United States and Greek Governments for the sale of an island in the Aegean Archipelago to the former as a commercial depot.

LORD WESTBURY, who has been all the winter abroad, has just purchased, it is stated, for £40,000, a large estate in Tuscany, formerly the property of one of the leading nobles of Florence. It is described as containing an immense range of shooting, much fine wood, and a residence well suited to the tastes of its new possessor.

A RESOLUTION has been introduced into the United States Congress to change the designation of the country from "United States" to that of "America" simply.

HERR SZERZEL, a young Bohemian, only twenty-three years old, is said to speak thirty languages, and to be not only thoroughly conversant with all the languages of Europe, but also with those of China, Japan, and Malacca.

MR. JOB KEEVIL has just died at North Bradley, Wilts, aged ninety-one years, leaving eight children, fifty-six grandchildren, and seventy-two great-grandchildren.

A PETITION to her Majesty the Queen, protesting against the systematic use of the word "England" in State and other matters, when speaking of the United Kingdom, to the detriment of Scotland and in violation of the Treaty of Union, is in course of signature, under the auspices of Mr. W. Burns, of Glasgow. [Lo! what does it matter?]

THE BOARD OF TRADE TABLES for January just issued show that the declared value of the exports during the month was £14,354,748 against £10,489,339 in January, 1865, and £10,413,546 in January, 1864. The value of the imports in 1865 is returned at £219,751,824 against £226,161,840 in 1864, and £204,532,512 in 1863.

NUMEROUS CLERGY in South Devon have agreed to accept the certificate of the registrar instead of banns in church, and to celebrate the marriage ceremony on the production of such certificate. They have further agreed that no fees either for banns or certificate be charged in the parish where the marriage is not celebrated.

A BOILER EXPLODED in the cigar manufactory of Messrs. Roberts and Co., St. John-street, Clerkenwell, on Monday. Five men who were at work in a room over the boiler were fearfully injured, and two of them are not expected to recover. Two other men were hurt, but less seriously.

A LIVING WOMAN with a dead child on her knee was recently found by a farmer sitting in the snow near Auchindole, Banffshire; the woman was bareheaded, without shoes, and unable to speak, and continued to till next morning.

A BENEVOLENT LADY, residing at Wivenhoe, has just forwarded, through Henry Whitty, Esq., of Colchester, a munificent donation of £500 to the National Life-boat Institution in aid of its general purposes, but particularly for the support of its life-boats on the Suffolk and Norfolk coasts.

SOME INTERESTING VESTIGES of the ancient Temple of Trajan, adjoining his Forum at Rome, have been discovered by the workmen employed in repairing the foundations of the Valentinian Palace.

MR. GRANT, President of the Royal Academy, has been elected President of the Artists' Benevolent Fund, in place of Sir C. Eastlake, and Mr. Boxall in place of the late Mr. David Roberts. It is now settled that Mr. Layard will take the chair at the anniversary dinner, on the 12th of May. The hanging committee of the Academy will be Messrs. Cope, Fied, and Horsley.

SOME HILARITY has been caused at the Court of Berlin, where a joke is rather a rarity, by the receipt from Palazzo Farnese of a box containing the insignia of the Black Eagle of Prussia, which his ex-Majesty of the Two Sicilies seems to keep since the gift of the same distinction to Victor Emmanuel.

A MOVEMENT is started in North and East Yorkshire to urge upon the masters of hounds the necessity for discontinuing hunting after next week, in consequence of the apprehended spread of the cattle plague by hounds. It is held that, as hunting has never been interrupted by frost until the present week, the boon may with much grace be granted. Some of the hunts have already agreed to the proposal.

THE ARRESTS FOR FENIANISM still continue, especially in the west and south of Ireland, and it is said that the gaols are crowded. The only cases that are brought to trial are those of soldiers. Courts-martial are sitting at Cork, Enniskillen, and elsewhere, but, as usual, in these courts the sentence is not promulgated till it is approved of by the Commander-in-Chief.

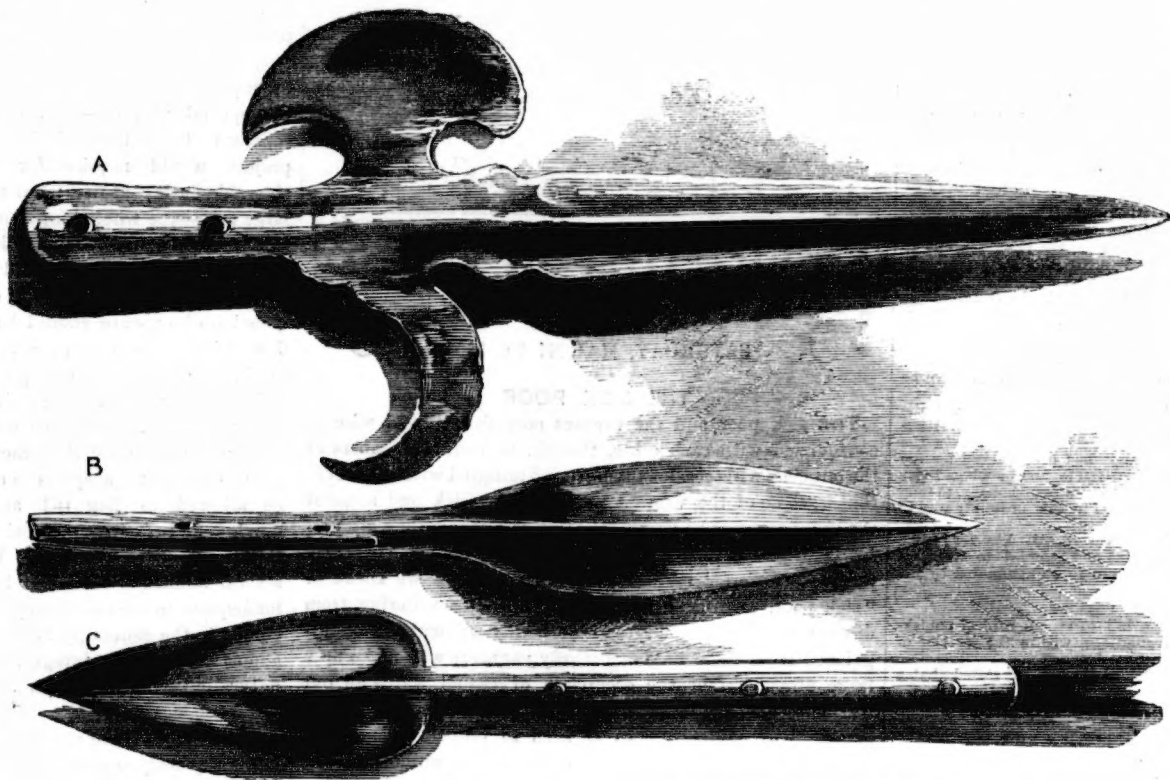
IRISH PIKES.

OUR Engraving represents pikes exhibited to our "Lounger" at Dublin Castle. The one fashioned somewhat like the old English halbert of the seventeenth century, marked A, is said to have belonged to Mitchell in 1848. The hook-shaped projection is sharpened on the inner side, in order to cut the bridles of cavalry or the tendons of the horses' fetlocks. The manufacture of the Irish pikes has kept pace with the times. Those of '98 were little better than hammered hoop iron pointed, with a cross-piece for striking in addition to thrusting. The pike-heads of 1866 are of very superior make, and seem rather to suggest Birmingham and Sheffield than the village smithy as the place of their manufacture. They are of two shapes, which we cannot better describe than in botanical terms as "lancoolate," as shown in the Illustration B, and "hastate," as in C. The iron bearings connecting the head with the wooden handle, shaft, or "rod" of the pike are now made longer and stouter than in previous years, apparently for the purpose of preventing the severance of the head from the wood by a smart stroke with a sabre.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY STATIONS.

FARRINGTON-ROAD.

THE immense development of traffic on the Metropolitan (or,



A. PIKE OF 1848, CAPTURED FROM JOHN MITCHELL.

B, C. PIKEHEADS OF 1866, IN DUBLIN CASTLE.

IRISH PIKEHEADS.

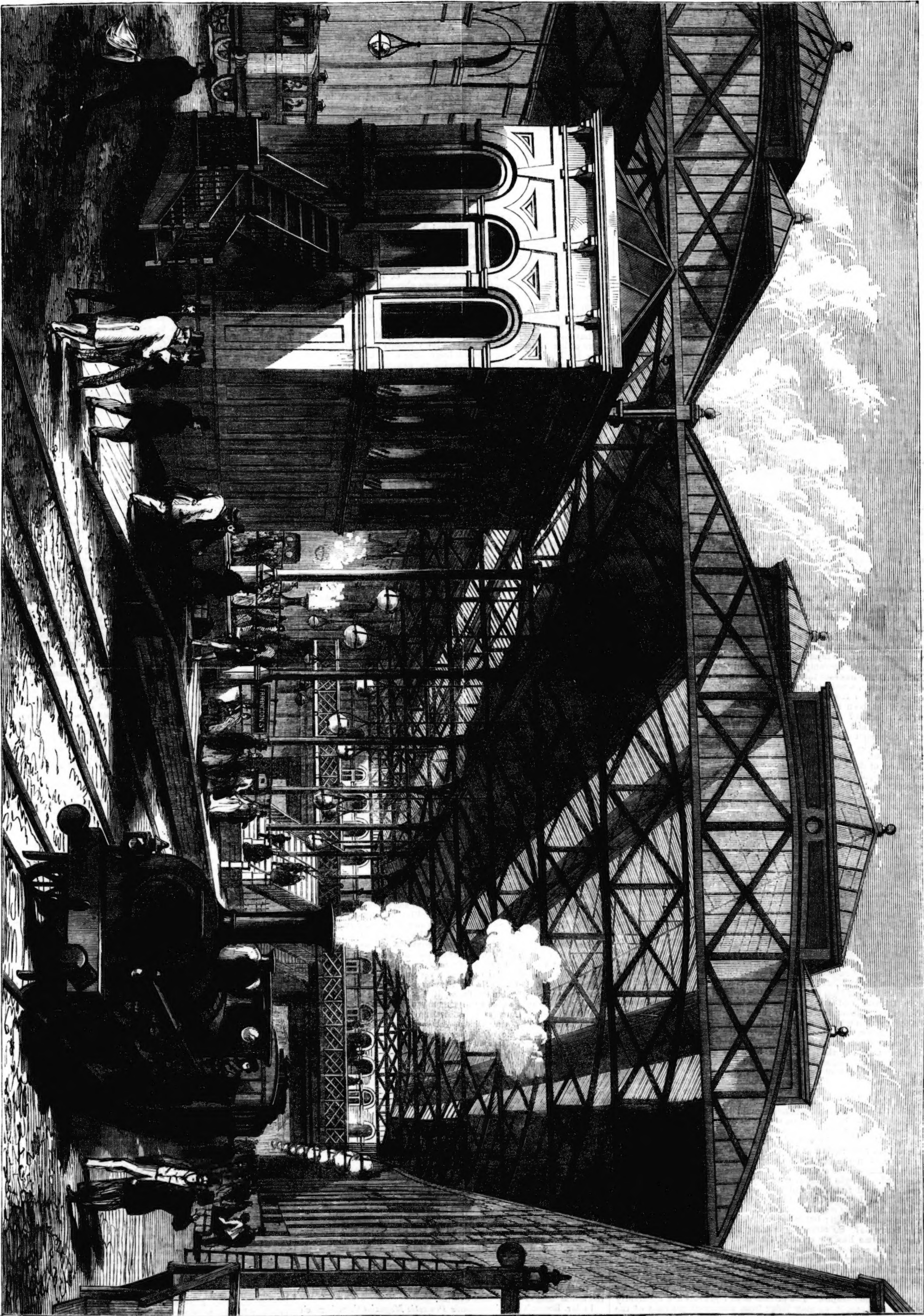
as it is popularly known, the Underground) Railway having received a further accession by its connection with the irrepresible London, Chatham, and Dover, the old station in Farringdon-road became inadequate to the public requirements, and a new structure became necessary. Accordingly the new station, a little further up Farringdon-road than the one which it has now superseded for passenger traffic, was erected and was opened some weeks ago. The edifice, like most railway erections in these days, has no external pretensions, being a plain and not very imposing structure. Within, however, it is more striking, from its great depth and length, and the spaciousness of its arched roof of iron and glass. One side of the station is devoted to the trains of the Great Northern Railway, with which the Metropolitan is connected at King's-cross; and the other to the traffic of the Underground and the London, Chatham, and Dover, with which the London and South-Western, by means of the projected Battersea junction, will probably be ultimately conjoined. The Farringdon-road station will thus by-and-by become one of the greatest railway centres in London, as traffic will pour into it from the Great Western (by means of the Metropolitan), the Great Northern, the London, Chatham, and Dover, and, when certain extensions are completed, the Great Eastern.



RICHMOND BRIDEWELL, DUBLIN, FROM WHICH HEAD-CENTRE STEPHENS ESCAPED.



MOORGATE-STREET STATION OF THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.



THE NEW STATION OF THE METROPOLITAN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY, FRANKTON-STATION.

MOORGATE-STREET.

Slowly, and with every kind of inconvenience and danger to the London public, the great railway system is swallowing up private houses and great thoroughfares. Its bridges span the streets and shut out the light; its tunnels open huge, unsightly gaps in the very heart of the metropolis; and its directors and promoters obtain powers against which nobody thinks of appealing, although they establish a tyranny immeasurably worse than that Imperial fiat which has converted Paris into a city of palaces.

We have already, from time to time, traced the progress of that great underground line which is known as the Metropolitan Extension, and very recently an Engraving appeared in our columns representing the Aldersgate-street station, for the convenience of which even the integrity of the old Carthusian precinct had been disregarded. Our present Engraving of the new station at Moorgate-street will show that yet another link has been added to the iron coil which is soon to gird London. The building itself is unpretentious, and is most remarkable for that temporary look which seems somehow to distinguish the recent constructions of this line. There can be no doubt that the present station is likely to be largely used by passengers from the City to Paddington and the further limits of the western districts; but it is also convenient for the shorter journeys, where at present the line itself is more often outside the earth's surface, or at least is only buried in a cutting.

The run from Moorgate-street to Farringdon-road is in itself a strange excursion, revealing as it does such a marvellous upheaving and disorganisation in hitherto well-known localities, and exhibiting a sort of wild railway chaos in places long ago associated with unchanging routine and orderly dullness.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

HERE is a little bit of news which I think is quite new. Thomas Carlyle, who has returned to town quite well, means to deliver his inaugural address to the Edinburgh University in April. Let, then, editors of our daily papers select their best stenographers; for this will be a lecture which thousands in England, America, and Germany will want to have reported *verbatim et literatim*. Twenty-six years ago Mr. Carlyle delivered his celebrated lectures on hero-worship. He has not mounted the rostrum since, and probably will never mount it again, for he is, alas! seventy-one years old. But why should I say alas! for he, if any man ever did, has done his work for his day and generation. I am told that he rather makes light of his appointment of Lord Rector to the University of Edinburgh, which is natural; for in itself this appointment is not much, but as a testimonial of his *alma mater* it must be grateful to him.

Mr. Speaker, about a month or more ago, wounded his shin, and, like most men in such case, thought it a trifle. He has now, however, waked up to the importance of such a wound in such a place. Acting under his surgeon's advice, he rides to and from his house, and down two of the long corridors, when he comes to prayers, in a wheel-chair. The breaking of the skin which covers the shin-bone is no trifle to an elderly man. Good old Mr. Knott, the earnest and industrious defender of the faith according to the Church of England, was under the gallery when the church-rate debate was on, and whilst there was suddenly seized by something very much like apoplexy. He managed to walk out and get into one of the officers. Lord John Manners was sent for, and, leaning on his Lordship's arm, the poor old man was got down stairs, and sent home with a friend in a cab. His Lordship then telegraphed to the Rev. Mr. Knott, Incumbent of Harrow, the son of the old gentleman. Mr. Knott is well known about the House, and greatly respected as a man of simple and earnest faith and amazing perseverance and energy. It was mainly owing to his exertions that the majority in favour of the abolition of church rates during last Parliament was turned into a minority. The Church Defence Society, a few months ago, presented him with a handsome testimonial.

Seven times has Hadfield's bill to release State and municipal officers from the obligation to make certain declarations that they will not use their office to the injury of the Church been sent to the Lords, and seven times their Lordships have rejected the measure; albeit, the Earl of Derby has said that these declarations are not, as a defence of the Church, worth the paper on which they are printed. Now, once more the House of Commons has passed the bill, and once more it has been sent to the Upper House. Will their Lordships again reject it? I rather fancy not. The Oaths Bill has gone there too, and it is said that it is not the intention of the Sovereign Despot to recommend the rejection of that; and if this be passed one can scarcely see how the other can be thrown out. Very few people make these declarations. The Ministers of State never do, neither do policemen and other State and municipal officials, although they are all, down to the crossing-sweeper, if he be a municipal officer, liable to heavy penalties. How, then, do they escape these penalties? Well, a bill of indemnity is annually passed which covers all these defaults. Can the force of trifling further go than this? And what must we think of the dull, opaque stupidity which has so long kept such a law upon the statute book? You might as well make a law to compel farmers to hurdle round their fields to keep out the cattle plague, then allow said farmers to neglect due precaution, and then pass annually a law of indemnity to free them from the penalties to which they are liable.

That Cattle Plague Bill which Mr. Hunt, with infinite difficulty, got through the House of Commons, the Lords sent to a Select Committee; and it has been so altered that Mr. Hunt hardly recognises and scarcely likes to own his child. I suppose it will be down at the Lower House again this week; but, what the wisdom of the Commons may determine to do with it, so mutilated as it is, I cannot, of course, say. Perhaps the Commons may consider that it is all the better for the mutilation. One can imagine this; for, certainly, it was a very strange thing when it was transmitted to the Upper House. I suspect (though I see it stated that Mr. Hunt intends to disown the bantling) that after Sir George Grey and Mr. Hunt have run their critical eyes over it, the bill will be accepted. In that case, thousands of slaughter-houses will be out of occupation, and thousands of slaughters will have to migrate or turn their hands to something else. Meanwhile, and in spite of all our legislation, the dreadful rinderpest, the plague which walketh in darkness, goes on its way, and laughs at all our precautions. My butcher tells me that beef will be 2s. a pound; but he, like a good many supposed wiser men, does not understand political economy. He cannot see that, whilst the destruction of our cattle tends to raise prices, the consequent diminished consumption tends to keep them down. Prices may rise no doubt higher than they are, but if they should, hundreds of thousands of people must cease to eat beef—e.g., if the cattle plague should destroy twenty per cent of our bullocks, and consumption should cease to the amount of twenty per cent, why, the account would be balanced. Moreover, high prices have brought in, and will bring in, an increased supply from abroad. I have no fear at present of extravagantly high prices.

There is in the House of Commons a growing opinion that the Reform Bill will be a much wider measure than has been of late expected. It was whispered in my ear on Wednesday that the county rental franchise will be lowered to £15 and the borough to £6, and I suspect that the prophecy will be fulfilled. If this should be so, we may expect events. The Commons may—will, I think—pass the bill; but what will the Lords do? Ay, what will the Lords do? So strangely familiar that question sounds in my ear, it seems like an echo of the past! Well, the Lords, unless their fears prevent, will reject it. And then what next—and next? Clearly this may be an eventful year. It has been all along known that Earl Russell is in favour of such a franchise, but was opposed in the Cabinet. Has the opposition, then, been overcome?

I have paid Mr. Mayall a visit, and inspected his new "Solar Camera" photographs. The process is an ingenious and apparently a successful one, if we may judge from a series of portraits of the Poet Laureate, about six or eight in number, enlarged from a small one, about the size of the usual carte de visite. From this all the

others are produced in various proportions up to lifesize, but without any of the blur or coarseness usual in such reproductions. It is not, I believe, betraying the secrets of the prison-house (operating-rooms are very like the *Piombi* of the Inquisition) to reveal that this is done by using the negative as the slide of a large magic lantern, for which the sun plays the part of lamp, and throws the magnified picture on a large sheet of sensitive paper instead of the usual calico screen. The positive thus produced is then coloured in the ordinary way. A large collection of specimens of the process may be seen at 224, Regent-street, the most recent addition being the most interesting—a large picture, lifesize and full-length, of Lord Brougham and M. Berryer, the great French advocate. The likenesses are admirable, the grouping natural, and the effect excellent. In fact, it is only when minute examination reveals an accuracy in detail which the painter cannot achieve that we feel quite sure the picture is not a highly finished work in oils by some eminent portrait-painter. This may seem no compliment to the art of portrait-painting; but really, unless in exceptional cases, like Boxall's portrait of Bowman, science in this respect is as good as, if not better than, art, as Messrs. J. and C. Watkins have wilyly hinted by publishing, in addition to their own photo of the new president of the Royal Academy, a copy of his portrait painted by himself some fifteen or twenty years ago—a regular "No. 164 Portrait-of-a-Gentleman" thing, without any character or go.

I was at the Langham conversazione, which was a crowded one, with some excellent pictures on the walls and the easels, most of them by this time safely housed in Suffolk-street. Hayes, Fitzgerald, L. Synthe, and C. J. Lewis were nobly represented; and there were some clever smaller works: a humorous little picture of "a penny steamer"—i.e., a baked-tater can—by Barnard; and a spirited study of a cavalier penning a despatch on a drumhead, by Morten. Miss Ellen Edwards, too, was represented; and by a most meritorious work, with some nicely-painted drapery, and a sprinkle of veritable sunlight on a stone monument. C. Nicholls, Rossiter, Beavis, and the younger Catermole were also exhibitors. In the lesser room, devoted to the water colours and the portfolios, the crush, though I arrived early, was almost too great to allow of more than a glimpse; but I noted some charming works by Hine, Harper, and others.

That indefatigable sculptor Mr. Noble has just commenced a figure of her Majesty, seated under a lofty canopy surmounted by a cross, for Bombay. It will be of huge size; and, as it is to be of marble, and is solid though graceful in design, will, no doubt, worthily represent English art in the East. Mr. Noble's monument of Outram, for Westminster Abbey, is nearly completed. It is very original in design, and admirably executed, with a breadth and gravity becoming the character of the brave soldier it commemorates. A large figure of Cobden, for Salford, and busts of Cobden and Palmerston, for the Reform Club, are also in the studio, in various stages of progression, and render a visit to it very interesting.

Mr. Sandys's appearances on the wood are so few and so irregular that his admirers are always glad to hear where his work is to be met with. An illustration of his to Miss Rossetti's lines, "If," appears in *The Argosy* this month. It was, no doubt, exquisite as originally drawn, for there is something grand about it still; but bad printing or a prentice hand somewhere else has marred the effect. The dark cliff in the background is nearer than the head of the figure, the intensity and nervous impatience of which are marvellously given. Mr. Sandys must be looking anxiously for that long-promised process (which hasn't been invented yet) to supersede wood-engraving, for his drawings puzzle the best engravers.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In *Macmillan*, the Hon. Mrs. Norton continues her story of "Old Sir Douglas" with wonderful vivacity, tenderness, and truthfulness. Mr. Blackmore, too, in "Craddock Nowell," is very readable, and something more. This writer shows his muscles too much, but he will be calmer one of these days. Let us hope that he will not, in growing quieter, lose any of his power, sincerity, or moral courage. The accomplished Master of Trinity having now passed from amongst us, I have not the heart to say anything about his article on "Positivism," which is, probably, the last of his writings. I defer that and Mr. Simon's article, "Can We See Distance?" until next week.

I also defer a few special words upon "The Night Wayfarer," in *The Argosy*. The present number of that new friend contains a powerful illustration by Mr. Sandys. Besides Mr. Charles Reade's animated story of "Griffith Gaunt," which is continued with lover-like zest, there is a new story begun, by the author of "The Nut-Brown Maids," and a very nice story it promises to be. There is real humour in "The Dutchman's Grave Remembrance" with some English Travellers in Holland." Then we have Arminius Vamböy again; some more about Etretat, which is very interesting; and a sonnet by Mr. Sydney Dobell. Mr. J. F. McLennan has a paper on "Easy Writing," which is conspicuously clever; but its verve approaches insolence. The author has the recklessness as well as the liveliness of youth; and the whole paper is written with so obvious an eye to crowding in as many "effects" as possible that it fails to impress the reader as truthful, and even suggests a fancy that the author must have sacrificed some self-respect in writing it.

Of *Good Words* there is scarcely anything to say but what is pleasant. It will strike every reader that the posthumous paper by the late Mr. Clough puts the story of "William Cowper" into very clear and compact order—a story which has seldom been told before, except in fragments. Mrs. Oliphant's "Madonna Mary" is again charming. Mr. Gilbert tells a sad story, which he brought from a "Cell in Holloway Prison," to illustrate his own decided opinion that perhaps as many people are led into crime by the love of making a fine appearance as by the love of drink.

The *Churchman's Family Magazine* contains a pleasant article on "Indoor Gardening." I fancy that for the last month or two I have noticed that a new pen writes "Our Clerical Club."

The *Victoria Magazine* contains a very amusing paper, entitled "The Travels of Lady Hester Stanhope." The author of that pleasant story, "Trouble at Thornhill," winds it up in the present number. I am really glad to see this magazine hold up so well.

The *Intellectual Observer* is interesting, as it always is. I take the opportunity of giving what is substantially my own opinion of the *Popular Magazine of Anthropology* by quoting a few words from the Literary Notices in the *Intellectual Observer*. The *Popular Magazine of Anthropology* has reached me, too, and the following is pretty much my own idea about it:—

THE "ANTHROPOLOGIST" LITERATURE.

The *Popular Magazine of Anthropology*, printed with the *Anthropological Review*, and likewise published separately, is, in its present condition, a mistake. . . . A great deal of the matter is borrowed from other sources, and not a single paper possesses the average merit of magazine articles. While noticing the publications of the Anthropological Society, we cannot refrain from adverting to the vulgar, sensational character of its literature. Any virulent abuse of negroes or missionaries, any rabid nonsense tending to stimulate hatred and violence towards the African races, or to promote admiration of their oppressors, appears to be taken for science by the gentlemen who manage this peculiar association.

I looked over the first number of this *Popular Magazine of Anthropology*, and was greatly offended with it.

London Society is, of course, entertaining. I do not myself find it very light reading, but other people do; and it keeps up to its own mark very well indeed. Mr. Halliday's account of Lawrence Sterne is well done, but I can make nothing out of his introductory remarks.

Once a Week is greatly improved in the new series, and the present part is the best I have seen. The paper about "Chromolithography and Photo-lithography," with the illustrations, is extremely interesting.

A strong word must again be spoken for "The Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood" in the *Sunday Magazine*. There can now be no doubt as to the authorship of these annals, so all but supernatural is the moral insight which they exhibit.

In Mr. Beeton's *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* there is much that is good, and nothing better than the paper on Mrs. Gaskell. But what has this very intelligent critic to say about "Cranford"?

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Not a single new piece—tragedy, comedy, farce, or drama—has been produced at any of the theatres usually visited by your Lounge during the past week. The last nights of "Brother Sam" are announced at the Haymarket. On the 12th the "Overland Route" is to be revived for a fortnight, and on the 2nd of April Mr. Sothern reappears in a new comedy, from the pen of Mr. Westland Marston.

It is reported that Mr. Jefferson leaves the Adelphi at Easter; and it is said that Offenbach's opera of "The Belle Héloène," which has been some time in preparation, is to be shortly produced. Perhaps "The Belle Héloène" will be produced, perhaps it will not. Who knows?

Mr. Leslie, the author of "The Mariner's Compass" is writing a new drama for the Lyceum.

At the Princess's the last nights of "It Is Never Too Late To Mend" are announced; and Mr. Boucicault's adaptation of "The Streets of London" is to take its place.

The Strand announces "a posthumous play by Sheridan Knowles" as in preparation. Mr. Burnand's opera-burlesque of "L'Africaine" has been withdrawn; and Mr. Byron's extravaganza of "Ivanhoe," which was produced originally at the Strand three years ago, has been revived.

At the Prince of Wales's "Society" and "Little Don Giovanni" still run a successful career. On Friday last "Society" attained its hundredth night. Its author is writing another comedy for this pretty little theatre and its clever company. On Tuesday the Prince and Princess of Wales honoured Miss Marie Wilton by visiting her theatre. Their Royal Highnesses were accompanied by their Serene Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe.

Miss Milly Palmer is engaged for the next season at the OLYMPIA.

Mr. Henry Corri, who is the best of the few actors we have among our singers, has just recovered from a long and severe illness. A concert and dramatic performance are to be given for his benefit at Covent Garden, on Wednesday morning next, at two p.m. Our most popular singers and our most popular actors and actresses have volunteered their services; so have the chorus and the band, and bands are not usually given to practical expressions of sympathy. The performance will in every respect be extraordinary, and anyone wishing to see our greatest dramatic, vocal, and musical celebrities at one sitting, will do well to secure places early.

DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CEMETERY.—A Merovingian cemetery of the seventh or eighth century, has just been discovered at Petit-Aperville near that town. A farmer while levelling the ground on the side of a hill found a quantity of human remains buried in graves lined with chalk, and accompanied by vases made of dark clay, iron swords, and a variety of metal utensils. The finder at once communicated with the Abbé Cochet, the archaeologist, who superintended the excavations for ten days. Several bronze rings, belt-clasps, and other articles were collected, and will be deposited in the departmental museum at Rouen.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE LORD HERBERT.—Lady Herbert has caused a beautiful window to be erected in the parish church of Bower Chalke, near Salisbury, of which the Rev. W. Roland Williams, author of "Bunsen's Biblical Researches," in "Essays and Reviews," is the Vicar, to the memory of her late husband. The chancel has been rebuilt by the Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, who are the patrons of the living, and an additional aisle has been erected by the Earl of Pembroke. The church is to be reopened on Thursday next, the 15th inst., on which occasion the sermon will be preached by the Right Rev. Dr. Harold Browne, Bishop of Ely.

THE WAR BETWEEN SPAIN AND CHILI AND PERU.—Lord Clarendon has addressed to the Treasury an order for the enforcement of neutrality in the war between Spain and the Republics of Chili and Peru, to date in the United Kingdom from Friday, March 2, and in our colonies from six days after its receipt. The instructions with regard to the ships of war or privateers of either belligerent are similar to those given in relation to American vessels during the civil war. Orders have also been given to the Customs' authorities at the various ports, in the event of the Peruvian war-steamer Independencia and Huascar, or either of them, putting in, to require their commanders to land any British seamen who may be on board of them, and if the commander should refuse to do so, then to require them forthwith to depart from the port, and to prohibit them from obtaining any supplies whatever during their stay.

COBDEN MEMORIAL.—A meeting of subscribers to the Cobden memorial at Manchester was held on Monday afternoon, Mr. Malcolm Ross presiding, to decide upon the appropriation of a balance of the fund after defraying the cost of a statue, £2500, by Mr. Marshall Wood. The total subscription is £4420. It was resolved, on the unanimous recommendation of the executive committee, to devote a sum of no less than £1250 to the endowment of the chair of political economy at Owens' College, Manchester, on condition that its professor delivers each session a course of weekly evening lectures, to which any of the public primary school teachers or pupil teachers engaged in Manchester or Salford shall have free admission. The remainder of the fund would be invested as a prize-fund for these teacher-students. It was explained that the object is to secure a more general diffusion of knowledge of political economy among the people by first of all promoting its requirement by the primary school teachers.

NEW WORKS AT WESTMINSTER PALACE.—New works are now in hand for the erection of an arcade in Palace-yard in harmony with the Parliament House, from the designs of Mr. E. M. Barry. This will extend along the east side of Palace-yard, forming a new base to the building, and rising somewhat higher than the level of the roadway near Westminster Bridge. The centre of this arcade is open as a porch, having a statue on each side, to that portion of the palace; at the same time the arcade will supply a covered way for those who approach the new railway station which is to be erected close to the north-west angle of the bridge. A subway beneath the roadway will render communication easy and safe. This will be commenced as soon as the railway works will admit. It is also proposed to finish the west side of the clock tower by paneling; the appearance of the new work will be made to harmonise with that which already exists. A handsome railing of iron, gilt and richly moulded, will extend along the whole side of Bridge-street, and be perforated by gates, having within, as well as on the west side also, a series of shrubberies.

THE QUEEN'S PRIZE.—The general arrangements under which the Queen's prize will be this year shot for at Wimbledon have been issued by the National Rifle Association. As last year, the competitors will be two for each company of each administrative battalion, and where companies do not send competitors the commanding officer of the battalion may make arrangements with the other companies to send the full number of competitors. An entrance fee of £1 each competitor will have to be paid, except where the regiment subscribes to the association to an amount equal to £1 for each member sent to represent the corps. When the list of representatives has been sent in new long Enfield rifles will be issued in exchange for the Government arms held by the representatives as members of their respective corps, but the representatives shall not be compelled to shoot with these rifles, but may shoot with any rifles, provided they are of bond side long Enfield Government pattern 1853, and the barrels stamped with the viewer's mark. Ammunition at the rate of 200 rounds for each representative will be issued from the Government stores at cost price—namely, at 4s. 4½d. per 100 rounds for previous practice. This will be 1865 ammunition, and of the same quality as that which will be used at Wimbledon. The places where this will be issued from are Aldershot, Bristol, Bullport (near Devonport), Chatham, Chester, Dover, Harwich, Hyde Park, Manchester, Marchwood (near Southampton), Preston, Priddy's Hard (near Portsmouth), Sheerness, Tilbury, Tynemouth, Woolwich, Weedon; in Wales, at the stores at Brecon, Newport, and Pembroke, and in Scotland at Edinburgh, Fort George and Stirling Castle.

INCOME TAX.—A return has just been issued, showing, under various heads, the annual values assessed to the income tax in the year 1864-5, and the amount of tax chargeable at sixpence in the pound, as follows:—Lands, tithes, fisheries, and manors (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £57,002,425; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £1,424,811. Fines (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £204,932; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £5118. Houses (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £63,837,324; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £1,595,786. Mines and ironworks (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £6,588,161; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £1,646,901. Quarries (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £548,947; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £14,008. Gas, railway, canal, and other property (Schedule A), annual values chargeable, £22,547,308; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £563,637. Public dividends (Schedule C), annual values chargeable, £32,012,840; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £800,321. Hereditary pensions (Consolidated Fund) (Schedule E), annual values chargeable, £42,360; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £1059. Public companies (Schedule D), annual values chargeable, £11,303,415; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £282,568. Farms (Schedule B), annual values chargeable, £17,120,224; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £427,922. Trades and professions (Schedule D), annual values chargeable, £98,777,426; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £2,469,408. Offices, salaries, and superannuations (Schedule E), annual values chargeable, £20,559,367; amount of tax chargeable at sixpence, £513,951. The total of the annual values chargeable is, therefore, £330,880,720, and of the amount chargeable at sixpence, £8,263,880.

Literature.

The Workman and the Franchise. Chapters from English History on the Representation and Education of the People. By FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE, M.A. London and New York. 1866. Alexander Strahan.

It is better to review briefly, and even inadequately, an important book of immediate applications than to let slip the time during which its topics are sure to be prominent. The spirit in which Mr. Maurice would be likely to treat a subject of this kind must be pretty obvious to intelligent readers. The plan of the book is historical. It starts with an inquiry into the manner in which Roman, Saxon, and Norman times illustrate the words People, Citizen, Representation, Education, Commons, Freeholder, and Freeman. It then sketches, from Mr. Maurice's point of view, the history or aspect of the House of Commons downward from the reign of Henry III., through the Tudor period, the Stuart period, and the eighteenth century period, to our own times; and the last chapter is on "Manhood Suffrage and Money Suffrage." In the course of this survey it must necessarily happen that a man like Mr. Maurice—of generous accomplishment, devout spirit, immense breadth of mind, and pronounced opinions—should alight on topics peculiarly suited to his genius and powers of illustration and especially attractive to thoughtful and cultivated readers. It will not surprise anyone who is familiar with the bent of the gentleman's mind to notice that he is particularly successful in dealing with the Reformation, and with the Elizabethan times and literature, in their relation to the history of freedom, in that divine form in which alone Mr. Maurice and those who think with him could ever be supposed to deal with freedom.

Mr. Maurice will not consent that the franchise should be regarded exclusively, or, as we understand him, even primarily, as a right or a privilege; nor, indeed, as a trust merely for the interests of the nation. He will have nothing to say to any citizenship which is not divine. The working man is a citizen, but the citizen of a nation which has no unitary life, except as it exists in the eye of a King and Father of nations. Without a *Civitas Dei*, no citizenship. No true national life without true family life. And no true family life without perpetual reference to a universal family in heaven and on earth. These are not new ideas to the readers of the writings of Mr. Maurice; but, in the light of such ideas, he has, in these lectures, linked together the education and representation of the people, taking up the subject from the vantage-ground given him by his experience as President of the Working-Man's College, in Great Ormond-street. An able contemporary has superciliously rechristened this institution "an adult school"—as if Mr. Maurice, in calling it a College, had committed the same kind of error as an ostentatious fine lady who calls a phaeton "my carriage." But a little attention to the difference of meaning between the word college and the word school (read with quite obvious reference to the teaching of Mr. Maurice and his coadjutors) would have saved our contemporary from this error. To say that the college is not a college because there are only three Fellows, is absurd. *Ubi tres ibi Ecclesia*; and the question is, the constitution of the body, not its numbers.

It being necessary to provide a new building for the purposes of the college, Mr. Maurice delivered these lectures, in Great Ormond-street, to an audience admitted by tickets, and the product was £12 7s. 10d. The lectures being now printed in a handsome volume, the "liberality of the publisher" (which are Mr. Maurice's own words) adds £100 to the building-fund, and we take leave cordially to recommend the book to our readers. They will not expect a discussion of the subject in logical forms, much less any political commonplace; but they will find the whole question exhibited in new shapes by an eloquent and most subtle writer, whose exposition of his topic is always so shot through and through with lights of intense conscience and colours of deeply-founded sentiment, that the argumentative sequence is not always obvious. But no one is likely to rise from the book without feeling refreshed and animated; or, if he does, so much the worse for him.

A Dozen Specimens of Gustave Doré. London: S. O. Beeton.

What is this book? To the student of Doré, it is simply a provoking reminder of the works of the most imaginative artist living; to those who are ignorant of the full scope of his powers, it is by no means a fairly representative collection. There are infinitely finer compositions in the "Inferno" than the four selected, with, perhaps, the exception of "The Sea of Ice," which is, however, rather notable as a sample of engraving than as a specimen of Doré. The illustration immediately following it in the "Inferno," where Dante "grasps the tresses" of Bocca, is far finer. "The Hell of Serpents" does not give the dreadful drop and glide of the snake tribe like the picture where Agnello is unwound by the fell constrictor. In the same way "The Crossing of the Styx" is not so grand as a similar subject in the same volume; and "Dante in the Wood," charming as it is, does not eclipse like effects more grandly treated. The selection of the subject from Perrault is still worse. The worst specimen of Doré's powers has been chosen in each instance. From "Hop o' my Thumb" should have been taken the picture of the ogress with the lamp; from "The Sleeping Beauty" the slumbering banquet; from "Cinderella," the pumpkin scene; from "Puss in Boots," the exterior of the magician's castle, or the losing of the clothes. But far better than any of these would have been an illustration from *Peau d'âne*. The drawings to "Captain Castagnette" are not fair examples of what the great Frenchman can do; they are early and crude, and as badly chosen as the others. If the book is really intended as a specimen of Doré's power, it does not do him justice. It is curious to find in the same cover illustrations taken from works issued by Messrs. Cassell, Pether, and Galpin, and Mr. Beeton; and it is impossible not to ask ourselves whether the book is not the mere using-up of some excess plate-paper from other works in a new form of advertisement. The lion and the lamb (we will not particularise the firms) do not lie down together, as yet, without some such provocation; but, if this be the case, the result is anything but what is desired in one quarter; for a comparison of the printing of the Dante illustrations proves at a glance the superiority of the Camden Press over the printing establishment at Belle Sauvage-yard.

The Modern Practice of Photography. By R. W. THOMAS, F.C.S. London: Harrison.

Mr. Thomas takes a great deal of pains in his introductory sketch to teach the very beginner all the ins and outs of the art of photography, and he does so with much success, for his descriptions are thoroughly intelligible, even to those who have never plunged plate into bath, or seen their pretence handiwork developing by the yellow light of the photographic Bluebeard-Chamber. It is just possible, however, that for the mere beginner Mr. Thomas speaks too familiarly of bromine, cadmium, and potassium. A chapter devoted to the chemical properties of the salts, acids, and minerals employed in the art would be invaluable to the amateur photographer, who is not necessarily an amateur chemist, while it would not have swelled the pamphlet to any unreasonable size. In fact, it is quite open to debate whether a book containing no more than seventy pages of lightly-printed and well-lead matter can possibly exhaust to wide a field as "the modern practice of photography." We do not pretend to criticise this work as practical photographers; but viewing it merely as amateurs (for whom it professes to be written) we find Mr. Thomas rather lays down as rules the means he himself adopted than gives any wide view of the "modern practice." For instance, we search his pages in vain for any mention of the Wobleytype, which by introducing half-tints has raised photography more decidedly to the standing of an art than has been done heretofore. Nor does he explain why the works of Lock and Whitfield are (on purely technical merits alone, in the first instance) so much better than those of—well, we won't particularise. But, surely, if Mr. Thomas wishes to do more than spread his

own peculiar doctrine, he should give a brief *résumé* of all the systems in vogue (pronouncing judgment, if he likes, after definition), but at all events giving us a broader view of the appliances, manipulations, and chemicals of the science ere he ventures to style his work "The Modern Practice of Photography."

Tangled Web. Two Stories. By MARY L. BOYLE. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Miss (it may be presumed) Boyle is new to literature; and, however acquainted she may be with life, she seems determined not to take it all *couleur de rose*. The two stories comprised in the volume are called "The Companion" and "Mildred Fawcener," and the unmarried condition of the author may be inferred from the fact that they deal with nothing but love. In a certain way they are much alike, for in each an ardent attachment is blighted through a lady having the mystery of her past life cleared, and there is no proof of either of the rejected lovers recovering from the shock, or even of strongly endeavouring to do so. The antecedents are explained in brief, towards the close of the tales, and are in no way dramatic. Perhaps in her next effort Miss Boyle may try her hand at the sensible plan of beginning at the beginning. It is the only way of making a really powerful story; but be it remembered that a failure would be fatal. On the other hand, the stories before us have the advantage of keeping the reader wide awake and of being confined within most modest limits, an explanation taking but little space, whilst a dramatic working-out takes an extra volume or two. The second story, "Mildred Fawcener," the shortest and the best, has plenty of material for a book in itself; but had it been beaten out with hammer and anvil it might have lost much of its originality. "The Companion" has many points to recommend it, but it is less effective. The principal young lady has a trick of telling her history and the histories of those about her in a series of long letters to a German lady, a clever sculptor. She chatters art, also, to any extent, and eternal rhapsodies even are sometimes a relief from the eternal love-making. But all this charming confidence will be understood from the passage, "No one but her friend, the beautiful sculptress at Berlin, knew that the leg and foot of Atalanta, or the head and arm of her far famed Chryseide, had been borrowed from her friend and model, Grace Maynard."

These are a pair of unhappy stories, leaving much to be told or inferred. They will probably affect the reader a little short of weeping mark.

A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on Rivers and Lakes of Europe. By J. MACGREGOR, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge. With Illustrations. London: Sampson Low and Co.

In this amusing volume we have recounted the adventures of a gentleman well known in volunteer circles, who conceived the bold and original idea of passing his summer holiday in navigating in a fragile canoe the principal rivers and lakes of Europe, and who carried out his design in a way as plucky as it was daring. The leading rivers visited were the Meuse, the Rhine, the Danube, and the Seine; the lakes, Zurich, Zug, and Lucerne; on all of which Mr. Macgregor met with much to interest him, and to try his resources, readiness of invention, and powers of endurance. On the whole, he must have derived great pleasure from the excursion, for he speaks in most enthusiastic terms of canoe travelling. During a portion of the trip he was joined by the young Earl of Aberdeen, one of the crack shots of Wimbledon. And one reflection that occurs again and again in reading this book is, that it is easy to understand why the noblemen and gentlemen of Great Britain hold their own in vigour and energy so well against all comers, when we find members of the upper classes content to work so hard and fare so meagrely, merely in the pursuit of pleasure, as these two canoeists did. Men who can so well "paddle their own canoe" are sure to get and to perform a fair share of the duty of paddling that of the nation. Mr. Macgregor writes in an easy, elegant style; and the illustrations, from his own drawings, are excellent.

A Collection of Two Hundred Chess Problems. Composed by F. HEALEY. Accompanied by Solutions. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

Chessplayers may claim to be their own critics of these pages. Such volumes have always been favourably received, and the merits of Mr. Healey's problems will be readily understood, from the fact that they contain those to which the prizes were awarded by the committee of the *Era* newspaper, and the committees of the Manchester, the Birmingham, and the Bristol Chess Club Tournaments. The accompanying solutions will be found of great value by young players. The problems themselves are generally of the simple kind, the "conditional" and "suicidal" plans being held to have gone out of fashion. This is a handsomely-printed volume, and likely to become an early companion of previous chess literature.

NEW NOVELS.

Land at Last. A Novel. By EDMUND YATES, Author of "Broken to Harness," "Running the Gauntlet," &c. London: Chapman and Hall.

A Noble Life. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," &c. 2 vols. London: Hurst and Blackett.

The Belton Estate. By ANTHONY TROLLOPE. 3 vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

Mr. Edmund Yates is perhaps one of the most successful, as he has been one of the most hardworking, literary men of the day. Comparatively only a few years ago, he was passing, as it were, his literary novitiate as a feuilletonist, a "Loungeur" in the columns of the London journals, a writer of "London correspondent's" letters in those of the provinces, not unfrequently running up against a neighbour's shins or having his own corns trodden upon; a sort of literary free-lance, in fact. But, through all this desultory work, Mr. Yates has steadily pushed himself up to the position to which he has now attained—that of a leading place in the second rank of novelists. He cannot, as yet at least, be classed in the first rank; but, as we have said, he certainly occupies a respectable position in the second. Whether he will ever take his place with a Bulwer, a Dickens, a Thackeray, or a Lever, is doubtful. We fear he works too much, and therefore too carelessly, for that. But if the front of the second rank will content him, he may certainly win it. The present novel, "Land at Last," is a marked improvement upon Mr. Yates's previous performances. The story is told in a lively, engaging style, which carries the reader pleasantly on; many of the characters are well drawn; the plot, though simple enough, is well sustained; and the incidents, though by no means specially novel, are well arranged, and conduce to the progress of the narrative. We do not intend giving an outline of the story; and, on that score, shall content ourselves with saying that there are two currents of events, which yet have a mutual bearing on each other, and on two classes of characters—artistic and noble personages. In portraying the artist element of his tale, Mr. Yates has been by far the most happy. The Bohemian sort of life of the young artist is well exemplified in Charley Potts; the blighted man, with a large and kindly heart, in William Bowker; the genius, and yet the man of vacillation, who required to pass through the fiery furnace of tribulation to fix his character and bring out the grand features of his nature, in the hero, Geoffrey Ludlow. Mr. Yates has likewise created one splendid, thoroughly good woman—Annie Maurice; and we are glad that he has discarded the hackneyed twaddle which makes novelists endow their heroines with those eternal, wearisome blue eyes; and has chosen for Annie an orb of a colour (brown) infinitely superior. We are great admirers of a brown eye in woman. With that colour of eye we have always found associated the sweetness, the softness, the devotion, the power of loving, the faithfulness, and the kindness which ought to distinguish the true woman; with, at the same time, a spice of spirit and energy—even of self-will on occasion—which gives piquancy and interest to female society. They who will may admire the grey and blue eyes, the wax-doll-like faces, and the neutral—we had almost written cold—

natures of the blonde; we infinitely prefer the brown eye, even if associated with a touch of the brunette's complexion and the brunette's characteristics. In Annie Maurice, Mr. Yates has painted an almost realisation of our ideal of a really lovable girl, and we thank him for it. The invalid Lord Caterham bears a resemblance to the hero of Miss Mulock's last novel—"A Noble Life;" but the coincidence must be only accidental, as, both works having been composed simultaneously, neither author could have borrowed a hint from the other. In Lionel Breakepere we have the stock aristocratic "swell" and scoundrel; and in his father and mother, Lord and Lady Beauport, representatives of the ordinary "upper ten thousand" fashionables. While recognising the general merits of Mr. Yates's last production, we regret to have to notice some faults, arising, as we believe, from the fact that the author writes too much, and therefore cannot give that degree of attention to details which is necessary to the perfection of literary as well as other sorts of work. Some of these blemishes can readily be forgiven in a work published from time to time in the pages of a periodical, as this one was; but when reprinted, and therefore, it is to be presumed, revised, they ought to have been amended. For instance, Mr. Yates has a great deal to say concerning Margaret Dacre's eyes; but he is strangely inconsistent in his talk about them. When rescued by Geoffrey Ludlow from starvation in the streets, that lady is described as lying back in a chair, "still with unclosed eyes" (vol. i. p. 68); and then, on page 70, we are told that "her eyes were still closed; but, as he (Geoffrey) moved, they opened wide, and fixed themselves on him. Such large, deep-violet eyes, with long, sweeping lashes! such a long, solemn, steadfast gaze, in which his own eyes were caught fast, and remained motionless." Motionless, but surely not sightless; for he dreams of those eyes and of their peculiar colour; and yet, a page or two further on, we are informed that he had really not seen them, and was dubious as to their hue. Again, Mr. Yates somewhere remarks, in the early portion of the work (we have mislaid our reference, and cannot name the page) that it is never the destiny of any man to love truly more than once, or something to that effect—a sentiment which all observers of mankind (except, perhaps, young ladies and lady-novelists of the intensely sentimental school) know to be rubbish, and which Mr. Yates shows that he does not himself believe in, for he makes his hero marry twice, and each time for pure love! Barring these and a few similar small faults, however, Mr. Yates has done his work well in "Land at Last," some of the scenes—such as that between William Bowker and Lionel Breakepere, and the death of Margaret—being very fine and effective. We congratulate the author on this decided success, and hope he will go on improving and—to that end—taking a little more care.

Miss Mulock may claim to be a kind of princess—differing materially from the lady of Tennyson—among hero-worshippers. Acute novel-readers of the last dozen years will never forget how she puts her heart and soul in full faith with such characters as the "Head of the Family," and "John Halifax, Gentleman," and how the worship is repeated in a fresh and higher form of society, in no less a person than the last Earl of Cairnforth. In a "Noble Life," the mingled sternness and humility of the humbler heroes are changed to the soft but inflexible will of the noble Earl, who is, strangely enough, utterly helpless. His mother, a widow, dies in childhood, leaving the newly-born Earl a cripple, deformed in every limb. This may possibly remind many of "The Deformed," the second of the "Two Old Men's Tales," but the difference is soon seen. The little Earl has the best of guardians and friends, especially amongst the latter being the Rev. Mr. Cardross and his daughter Helen. The relations between the girl and the boy are beautifully described, and give as fine an idea of disinterested love as Miss Mulock has yet conveyed. To begin with, they are very like sister and brother, the sisterhood always having in it much of guardianship, until the change comes with the Earl's years; and by the time he arrives at man's estate his fine intellect is capable of governing all with which it comes in contact. In brief, he combines all the best characteristics of our modern series of model lords; and when his hearty sympathy and charity are preyed upon and outraged by a heartless liar and scoundrel generally, he takes care of the innocent victims, and develops the purest Christianity towards the dying sinner. The strange story of Helen's marriage, and her future career with her child, is better for the power of its telling than for its richness of imagination. It is—like all the rest, indeed—so straightforward and drily given, that it seems more like biography than fiction, and, necessarily, is almost without a plot. The Earl accomplishes what would be miracles of goodness were it not for his great wealth, and dies at the age of forty-three, making happy all those who had contributed to rescue his life from its early dark struggle. The story itself must be sought in the volumes of the best and purest fiction of the day. Many of the characters are well worthy of the fame of their numerous worthy predecessors.

Mr. Anthony Trollope is a puzzle. Every student of the Irish rebellion knows how Sir Boyle Roche was accustomed, in the disturbed state of the country, to write a letter "with a pistol in each hand and a sword in the other;" and somewhere down modern Parliament-street way may be seen a "casual" who solicits charity by writing aphorisms in chalk with his toes. Perhaps Mr. Trollope is able to perform both prodigies of science in addition to the ordinary simplicity of keeping the pen in the right hand and preventing the paper from running off the table with the left. Seldom are there less than six Richmonds in his field, and it must require as clever a reader to read them all at once as it requires as clever a man as their author to write them. The secret may soon be out; the books may not be so clever after all. Some instances of wear and tear are already apparent; and, "in another place," some old characters are already being reproduced. In "The Belton Estate," however, there is one important deviation from something like a rule. There is no attempt at a cathedral town, not so much as a rural dean to perplex people over Church controversy. The story has already appeared periodically, and so it seems unnecessary either to tell it or to be reticent on the matter. Belton is an estate in the West, owned by a fond and foolish old man, who entail it for the sake of an immediate pecuniary advantage. When his son dies, and he dies also, the estate goes to a distant and almost unknown cousin, who, however, insists upon foregoing his claim in favour of the adorable daughter Clara. Here is some legal confusion. Estates are not usually subjected to entailment at the price of immediate money; and young Belton could not forego his claim alone, as two parties are always necessary to the setting aside of an entailment. A noble family in Ireland, "not a hundred miles from Donegal," will bear us out in this. But as "sometimes kings are not more imperative than rhymes," it may be that Mr. Trollope's muse demands more legal than poetic license. For the rest, we like what may be called the shiftiness of the characters very much. For instance, the love of the Captain and Clara, so strangely broken and so sensibly renewed, and so admirably broken after that. The growing love of Clara for her cousin is very truthful; the manliness—not the manners—of Will Belton, a bit of the softer side of Fielding. The Aymer family are rather too true to be pleasant; the Askertons, a family which might judiciously have been omitted. There is no saying what the teaching of it may be, but there can be no doubt as to the effect. Many separate scenes in "The Belton Estate" must be admired for the odd but everyday incidents and for the easy analysis of complicated motives or irresolution. What will not be admired is Mr. Trollope's troublesome habit of telling his story ten times over. He tells the reader something, and then repeats it to every different set amongst his *dramatis personæ*. The result is, that the book is looked through rather than read, or it would be almost impossible to make any way. As Prior says—

Dear Thomas, didn't thou never pop
Thy head into a tinman's shop?

and see how an active squirrel will grind away in its cage and yet make no progress. So may we say—

Dear reader, didn't thou never look
In Mr. Trollope's latest book?

and see how rapidly he spins his silk away, but is always loitering about his own cocoon.



THE SENATORS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ROME COMING DOWN FROM THE CAPITOL TO PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF THE CARNIVAL.

THE CARNIVAL AT ROME.

CARNIVALS have had their day—the age has outgrown them. In Turin the public festival has been observed with much of the usual depressed hilarity; in Florence some attempt has been made to revive a sort of mediæval gaiety; and at Rome the ex-King of Naples actually formed a Royal party to stand in a balcony and pelt the selected part of the public with confetti; but it has, on the whole, been a laborious effort, with which the common people were not delighted and wherein nobody felt any very great earnestness of

enjoyment. The life has gone out of the thing, and altogether the procession, though a few quaint masks and effigies call forth applause and interest, is a dull affair, which towards the last grows absolutely dreary. In days when the Governments were strong enough to tolerate political allusions once a year the people got a joke out of their rulers and blew off a good deal of insurrectionary steam that way. Now, neither the Government nor the people are quite sure of each other's position at Rome, and in Turin and Florence things have altered, and the carnival is becoming an out-grown, awkward ceremony, like our own Lord Mayor's Show.

Still, in Rome the mere pretence of a festival is sufficient to stir up the people to one of those strangely fitful variations of expression for which that fickle population is proverbial; and the Carnival of 1866 has had enough influence to rouse them to a flash of histrionic enthusiasm, and the prescribed holiday was hailed with noisy if not with very hearty rejoicing. In fact, a certain amount of interest is always secured by the ceremony represented in our Engraving, in which the Senator of Rome—a kind of mayor, accompanied by a municipal council whose existence, by-the-by, is purely nominal, and serves mainly for phantasmagorical purposes, present themselves in



SPRING FASHIONS: BONNETS AND HEAD-DRESSES.

the grand square to proclaim the opening of the carnival. This official pageant was sufficient to set the Romans agog for what was to come, and the saturnalia was entered into with just enough spirit to include even those who were only influenced by the general crowd to take part in the affair.

It is in the Corso that the great features of the crowded procession may best be seen; and even in the very mildest carnival time this place is marvellously lively and picturesque. In the Corso, then, the great event of the present carnival occurred. The house No.

129, the ground floor of which is occupied by a barber's shop, had a party in the balcony above, each of whom wore a mask of iron-wire, like those used during a bout at fencing. This party consisted of the ex-King of Naples, the ex-Queen, her ex-Majesty's sister-in-law, and the Duke and Duchess of Trapani, the uncle and aunt of the King. Of course the Royal comfits were scrambled for pretty eagerly by the crowd, who were pelted with a prodigality which must have emptied the shops of half a dozen of the Roman confectioners.

THE FASHIONS.

"SPRING'S delights are now returning," and the votaries of fashion are already heralding the approaching season by renewing their toilets, in the most luxurious and tasteful style.

We have already spoken of the increased demand for satin as a material for robes. It is rapidly regaining the well-merited popularity it formerly enjoyed; indeed, it is a matter of great surprise that it should ever have become unfashionable, the brilliant sheen of a good satin being (at least, to our taste) so very effective.



SPRING FASHIONS: INDOOR DRESSES AND GIRL'S COSTUME.

Black satin robes are trimmed with narrow bands of fur—such as grebe, marten, chinchilla, and sable; but fur of a grey shade is generally preferred. For evening dress, satins of a bright shade of colour, striped, or with rose, blue, or gold-coloured flowers on a white ground.

The skirts of ball dresses are made short in the front, and very long behind. A tunic is almost always worn: it may be made open at the front, back or sides, according to the taste of the wearer. Sometimes it is cut short in the front, and falls in points at the sides and back, each point having a tassel depending from it. The tunic may be of silk tissue, if worn over tulle or any light material; of satin, moire, or taffeta, with a robe of crepe or tarlatan.

We regret to find that the taste for metallic ornaments has increased to so great an extent that even ball dresses are now trimmed with lacets of silver or gold, tassels and cords of the same metals, cameos of the antique style, &c. Flowers are no longer used, except for very young ladies. We have seen a very pretty dress in which this metallic taste was disregarded, and with decided success. A skirt of white taffeta, with a puffing of white crepe round the bottom, over this a tunic of the same material was looped up with garlands of wild rose. The bodice was in the Grecian style; the sleeves short and ornamented with roses. The head-dress was composed of bandelettes of white velvet and tufts of roses.

A dress of pink satin had a tunic of white tulle, with a border of black lace, headed with a gold cord, the bodice draped with tulle, ornamented with antique cameos and gold cord, the shoulders trimmed with clasps and tassels. A head-dress of gold bandelettes and cameos completed this dress.

An elegant ball dress for half-mourning was composed of a skirt of white tulle puffed, the puffings separated by bands of black velvet; the tunic of grey satin trimmed with blonde, black velvet, and pearl. The coiffure was made to correspond, of pearls, jet, and grey satin ornaments.

The Princess shape is still worn for robes, and the tunic being so much admired, trimmings are placed on the skirts of dresses, in this form.

We remarked a very elegant robe of ruby velvet, trimmed with a band chinchilla, which was laid on the bodice in the form of a revers; descending to the skirt it was raised in a point on the seams at the side, the space between being ornamented with gold buttons; the fur was continued round the bottom of the dress.

Another dress was of green silk, made in the Princess style, fastened from the neck to the skirt with buttons of silver filigree-work. Over the bodice was worn a short jacket of velvet of a darker shade than the dress, trimmed all round with passementerie and silver grolots.

A black velvet dress and paletôt of the same, trimmed with fur, has a very elegant appearance for walking dress, while for a more distinguished toilette the same in blue velvet, with grèbe trimmings, is used. Dresses, jupes, and jackets of the same material will be worn again this spring. This style is certainly exceedingly pretty if the material employed be light and soft, but we cannot admire the use of knickerbocker and textures of harsh description for this purpose.

The style of dress for young children appears to be almost that of their parents on a miniature scale, and abundance of ornament is used until they arrive at the age of fifteen or sixteen, when it is considered the mode to be more simply attired. We may mention, *en passant*, that in Paris children only wear boots, ladies having discarded them in favour of high shoes of a similar style to those worn many years ago.

A very pretty bodice, to wear with any coloured skirt, may be made of black velvet. It should be cut with basques at the front and back, and may be trimmed with guipure and a fringe of grolots. A tulle chemisette should be worn with this bodice, edged with Cluny lace.

Jackets of different shapes are still worn, and are generally trimmed with fur. The sleeves should be almost tight.

The first figure in our Engraving has a robe of brown silk, the skirt very much gored, the bodice high and plain. The sleeves are trimmed at the wrist and shoulder with passementerie of the same shade as the robe. A row of buttons is placed down the front of the bodice.

The second figure wears a ball dress of amber tulle, puffed at the bottom; over this is a black lace tunic of the Princess shape. The berthe is of tulle, edged with black lace; the chemisette of puffed tulle. The head-dress is composed of azaleas and black velvet, studded with brilliants.

The third figure has a robe of white silk tulle, puffed at the bottom of the skirt, and having a ruche of white silk and cerise satin at each edge of the puffings. The tunic has a Greek trimming, in cerise satin and gold, and is edged with gold fringe. The bodice is ornamented to correspond; while the head-dress is composed of bandelettes, with a tuft, and ends flowing at the back.

The little girl wears a dress of black silk; a pardsessus of red faye, with a black and white trimming at the shoulder and bottom of the sleeves; and a Scotch cap of red velvet, bordered with black, with an aigrette of peacocks' feathers, and ends of ribbon falling at the back.

The head-dresses represented in our Engraving consist of a bonnet of pink velvet, dotted with white. The crown is composed of three puffings of white tulle, spangled with crystal beads. A bow and ends of wide pink satin ribbon is placed at the back, and roses adorn the outside and interior of the bonnet. Wide strings of pink satin ribbon.

Another bonnet is of white puffed satin, having on the front and at the crown tabs of violet velvet, edged with black guipure. The curtain of violet velvet. A wreath of eglantine is placed at the side. The strings are of wide white satin ribbon.

A bonnet of deep green velvet, dotted with pearls. The front is of white satin, covered with black tulle. A puff of black and white tulle, in the centre of which rests a bird of lively colour, is placed on the green velvet crown, which is soft, and is intended to be worn with a chignon. The strings are of white satin. The hood is made of black velvet, wadded and lined with taffeta; it has a band of fur at the edge, either of chinchilla, swansdown, or astracan. In coiffures, the antique style has been greatly adopted, and the difficulty of comfortably settling the very small bonnets on the very large chignons so generally worn has been an important consideration. We are glad to find that young ladies no longer employ the false curls and chignons so lately used, but simply a very soft frizzette, over which the hair, being combed, is easily compressed by the bonnet, and is at once more comfortable and graceful.

For giving an appearance of great abundance to the hair in front, combs are used instead of bandeaux.

ARCHBISHOP MANNING AND ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—A singular document has been issued by Archbishop Manning in reference to the forthcoming anniversary of St. Patrick, and has been largely circulated amongst those whom it more immediately concerns. It is as follows:—"Indulgence by his Grace the Archbishop of Westminster. A truce in honour of St. Patrick for 1866. I promise to abstain from intoxicating liquors from six o'clock on Friday evening, the 16th, to twelve o'clock on Sunday night, the 18th of March; and offer this act of mortification for the good of my soul and to avert the anger of God, so justly deserved on account of the sin of drunkenness.—N.B. Whoever requires it may keep this truce and still take a glass of malt liquor at meals. His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster has been pleased to grant forty days' indulgence to all who accept this truce and who keep their promise."

CONVICTION OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT UNDER THE CATTLE-PLAGUE ORDERS.—On Saturday last Mr. J. B. Stanhope, M.P., was charged before the magistrates at Horncastle Petty Sessions with having, on the 29th day of January last, unlawfully removed two cows and sixteen bullocks from Revesby to Tattershall along a public highway, such cattle not being fat cattle removed for the purpose of slaughter with the license of a justice of the peace, nor cattle removed from one part of a farm to another part of the same farm, with the license of a justice. It appeared by the evidence that, Mr. Stanhope's cattle being taken ill, he obtained a license from a brother magistrate to enable him to remove them. It was, however, shown that, by the third clause of the Quarter Sessions order of the 16th of January, it was necessary for every applicant to give evidence that the cattle plague did not exist within one mile of his premises before he could remove them. The magistrates held that Mr. Stanhope did not show that it was not within that distance, and fined him £20 and costs.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

AT the first Philharmonic Concert for the present season Robert Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri" was performed. The dogmatic M. Fétis, in a book avowedly written "in order to enable people to talk and write about music without having made a thorough study of the art," lays it down as a law that no one except a musician has a right to say in musical matters "this is good or that is bad;" all that a member of the general public can be allowed to say is "this pleases me, or that displeases me." We will declare at once, then, that Robert Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri" displeases us. As to the question whether it is good or bad we will pronounce no opinion of our own. We will simply quote the views on the subject put forward ten years ago (when Schumann's cantata was played in England for the first time) by two eminent musical critics who spoke with authority and evidently understood what they were writing about:—"From the impression produced on ourselves, as well as the evident effect on a highly-critical audience, we believe 'Paradise and the Peri,' says one critic, "to be a work of great genius and power, of which the beauties will develop themselves more and more as it is oftener heard and better understood." "We have only to add," says the other critic, "that 'Paradise and the Peri,' as a musical composition, is destitute of invention and wanting in intelligible form. In short, anything so hopelessly dreary, so wholly made up of shreds and patches, so ill-defined, so generally uninteresting, we have rarely heard." It the music of "Paradise and the Peri," then, good or bad? All we can venture to say, bearing in mind M. Fétis's advice, is, that it displeases us.

While the public in England persist in rejecting the music of Wagner, Schumann, and the unmelodious school generally (in which a high place ought to be assigned to M. Rubinstein), we are sorry to find that the French continue to take an insane delight in the works of M. Offenbach. Here is a composer whose works are entirely deficient in beauty, and who does not even possess honourable aspirations. His great aim is to write music which shall be piquante; which shall exhibit all the qualities which the lady-frequenter of the Bal Mobile pride themselves on possessing—that is to say, want of decorum, a grotesque manner, and a sort of lively vulgarity which passes for wit. A complaint has lately been made that M. Offenbach once wrote a part for a dog. We see no use in reviving this scandal. But an opera called "Barkouf," set to music by M. Offenbach, and in which a dog plays the principal part, does, or did, exist. We cannot say that M. Offenbach's canine music was liked; but he is evidently not at his ease when he writes for the human voice. If the French like gaiety in music, we share their taste in that respect. But M. Offenbach is not gay; he is only comic, after the manner of the low comic singers at our music halls. That a country which has produced Auber and Adolphe Adam should find M. Offenbach gay is a strange fact, but also a sad one. No one would think of comparing Adolphe Adam with Auber, still less with Rossini. The "Barber of Seville" is, no doubt, a much greater work than the "Postillon de Longjumeau;" but between the "Postillon de Longjumeau" and "Orphée aux Enfers" there is all the difference which exists between art and no art. We have had the pleasure of never hearing "the great Vance" or "the great Arthur Lloyd;" but from what we have been told of them we feel convinced that they would be the true exponents of the Offenbachian music. If pecuniary success, or even the applause of numbers, be a fair test of merit, then we have vocalists at our music halls who may claim to take rank with "the great Offenbach."

However, M. Offenbach's "Orphée aux Enfers" has now been played five hundred times; and we read in the Prussian correspondence of a contemporary that the "Baïbe Bleue," an operabouffe, in three acts, by the same composer, is expected to obtain an equal amount of popularity. "The piece," we are told, "is extremely gay, notwithstanding that Bluebeard kills his six wives. But the fair defects are but quasi-defects, and the victims of ruthless massacre reappear in the flesh, and the whole is wound up with half a dozen happy marriages. The music in general is of a more elevated character than that of 'La Belle Héloïse' [that is quite possible, but scarcely probable]; and the vocal powers of the artists are exerted throughout with a degree of success that ensures the heartiest applause, several of the pieces being rapturously encored."

Mrs. Berry-Greening announces the first of a series of national concerts, to be devoted exclusively to English, Scotch, and Irish music, for this evening.

ACTION AGAINST A CLERGYMAN FOR LIBEL.

AT the Warwick Assizes on Monday, before Mr. Justice Stoe, an extraordinary action for libel was tried, in which the plaintiff was a farmer named Fell, living at Cubington, near Leamington; and the defendant, the Rev. Mr. Anstis, late Vicar of Cubington, and former Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. The alleged libel consisted of a statement made by the defendant from the pulpit, and afterwards printed and circulated in a pamphlet. The defendant pleaded that the alleged libel was true in substance and in fact. The damages were laid at £1000. Mr. Digby Seymour was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Serjeant Hayes for the defendant. The plaintiff, in 1860, occupied a glebe farm belonging to the defendant, and some unpleasantness arose on the score of rent, that feeling being aggravated by a scandal in circulation respecting a married woman who occupied a cottage on the farm. The plaintiff, it appears, refused to take any step in the matter, and soon afterwards received notice to quit from the defendant. Nothing occurred further till September last, when the defendant, being about to leave Cubington, preached a farewell sermon, in which he referred in very strong terms to the hostility evinced towards him by the farmers of Cubington. He then declared solemnly before God that he never had any unpleasantness on any matter of business, except with the plaintiff, "who," he went on to say, "insulted me in my own house without any provocation, and told me he purposely did not stop, but rather encouraged, the sin of adultery under the roof of my own cottage because he knew that by doing so he should annoy me." "On his refusing to retract such words," said the defendant, "I turned him out of the farm. The Lord judge between him and me." Another passage was also complained of, namely, "That the same wicked, lying farmer, aided by a neighbouring one, as I am informed, is striving to empty Cubington Church at this very moment by helping to put falsehoods into the Leamington newspapers against me and those belonging to me. Again I say the Lord judge between him and me." Several witnesses were called in support of the plaintiff's case, and it was further asserted that at a school treat given last July the rev. defendant's wife proposed three groans for the Cubington farmers, and expressed a hope that they might have had harvest weather. Mr. Serjeant Hayes, in presenting the defendant's case to the jury, called attention to a series of announcements to which he had been subjected by the plaintiff ever since he gave him notice to quit the glebe farm, and which culminated in the publication in a local newspaper of the slanderous statement, asserting that Mrs. Anstis had really made use of the language imputed to her at the school conduct. The learned counsel contended that the plaintiff, by his offensive conduct, had provoked the alleged libel; and though the defendant regretted that, in a moment of irritation, he had uttered and published what he had done, the statements made respecting the plaintiff were strictly true, and, under the circumstances, justifiable. The defendant and a number of witnesses were called and examined, in confirmation of the statements in the sermon alleged to be libellous. The defendant swore positively that the plaintiff did say that he knew of the adultery, and that he encouraged it for the purpose of annoying him. He also explained that Mrs. Anstis made use of the expressions ascribed to him, and that the offensive toast was proposed by someone else. Serjeant Hayes and Mr. Seymour having addressed the jury on behalf of their respective clients, the learned Judge carefully summed up the whole case. The jury, after a very short absence, returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages one farthing.

CHILIAN PRIVATEERS IN EUROPE.—A Chilean privateer steamer has been fallen in with off the coast of Norway. The Concordia (Spanish steamer), arrived in Christiansand to load a cargo of fish for Cadiz, was spoken by her, and, fortunately, escaped by hoisting the English flag. Vessels in Norway are demanding higher freights for Spain upon Northern produce. The above-named steamer Concordia arrived at Falmouth on Feb. 25, on her return voyage to Spain, and proceeded thence on the 27th for her port of destination.

FALL OF A REMARKABLE TREE.—During a violent gale which occurred in the Dunkeld district, Scotland, about a fortnight ago, a large number of trees, some of them of unusual size, were uprooted. In the garden of Duncrub, belonging to Lord Rollo, a fir-tree worthy of note was blown down. The tree was fully 80 ft. in height, and the circumference at the root was 18 ft. The tree was planted in 1706, to commemorate the union between England and Scotland, and on that account was much valued by the family at Duncrub.

AN OLD SCANDAL IN A NEW LIGHT.

SOME mention has been made in the Court of Probate, upon one or two recent occasions, of the case of "Ryves against the Attorney-General." It may not be generally known that, although the cause has not as yet assumed a very important shape, it involves points of historical interest; and when it shall have come fully before the Court it will, we have no doubt, attract a large share of public attention. The suit is undertaken by a mother and her son, who, though they are now living in comparative obscurity, aspire to the high honour of being recognised as members of the Royal family. In endeavouring to accomplish their end it will be necessary for them to inquire somewhat closely into the private history of King George III.; and many curious incidents must of necessity be brought out by the evidence and documents exhibited in reference to this part of the case; for Mrs. Ryves, the petitioner, asserts that she has descended from the issue of a private marriage contracted by the fourth brother of George III., who was known as Prince Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland. The lady to whom the Prince is said to have been married was Olive Wilmot, the daughter of Dr. James Wilmot, Rector of Barton-on-the-Heath, in Warwickshire. His wife, the mother of this Olive Wilmot, was a Polish Princess. How much interesting matter it will be necessary to disclose for the purposes of this suit, respecting the private relations existing between the Prince and Olive Wilmot prior to the alleged marriage, it is impossible to say at present; but, as the whole suit hinges upon this point, everything incidental to the intimacy of Prince Frederick and Dr. Wilmot and his family will, no doubt, be thoroughly canvassed.

But whether this marriage can be proved or not, it is quite certain that it was acknowledged at the time, for the gossip of the period seem to have made it one of their stock subjects, and the daughter born of the marriage was also publicly recognised. It seems, however, that in the course of time the Prince got into a scrape with Mrs. Horton, a sister to Colonel Luttrell, who was afterwards returned member of Parliament by Court influence in place of "Demagogue Wilkes." The Prince eventually married Mrs. Horton, and, as the bigamy was committed in the face of the acknowledgment of the issue of the former marriage, it became necessary that something should be done to hush up the scandal. The histories referring to the period show that the King about this time would not receive his brother at Court, and it is conjectured, with some show of reason, that the prohibition arose out of the disagreement between them consequent upon this bigamous marriage. The Prince accordingly, unwilling or unable to deny himself the pleasure of Mrs. Horton's society, and equally loth to be denied the Court, neglected his first wife, who afterwards died in France. He also consented to a proposal that his daughter should be brought up in ignorance of her parentage until the scandal had died a natural death and certain distinguished personages had died too. When this had been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, save those who, if the story be true, had been most grievously wronged, the marriage of the Prince with Mrs. Horton was allowed to pass without interference; and it is this Mrs. Horton who has continued to be acknowledged as the only and childless wife of Prince Frederick, Duke of Cumberland. It is easily conceived that an arrangement such as that which, it is said, was come to between the Prince and the King was not concluded without some writing, and it is asserted that several documents were signed touching the legitimacy of the daughter of the Prince and his wife, née Olive Wilmot. These documents, it is further asserted, were witnessed by more than one Minister of State of the period, and carefully preserved at the King's request. They were ultimately committed to the care of certain eminent persons, upon whom a solemn obligation of secrecy was laid until the happening of certain events which have long since occurred. The names of all these persons will, we have no doubt, be made known in the course of the proceedings before Sir J. P. Wilde.

The case has already been before the public, not only in courts of justice, but also in Parliament and by petition to the Royal family. The first petition to the Crown was made in 1819, and the last in 1858. In 1861 Mrs. Ryves, then sixty-four years of age, obtained a decree against the Attorney-General establishing the marriage of her father to the lady to whom we have already referred as the daughter of the Duke's first marriage, and the chief object of the present petition is, as we have already stated, to establish Mrs. Ryves's descent through this lady from Prince Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, with the ultimate object of proving her son's title to the honour and dignity of the dukedom of Cumberland, and her own right to the title of Princess of Cumberland.

The case was introduced to the notice of Parliament by Sir Gerard Noel nearly half a century ago. He moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the truth of statements made in her petition, which he had presented three months before. It seems he was very earnest in her cause, thoroughly believed in the genuineness of her case, and persisted in announcing that he "had it in command from this Royal personage" to do so and so; "for Royal personage he would continue to believe her" until she was proved and declared to be an impostor by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. The petition of that day seemed to aim not only at the declaration of Mrs. Ryves's legitimacy and Royal descent, but also at the acquisition of a grant from the Civil List. Sir Gerard Noel declared that he "had always believed that every member of the Royal family was upon the Civil List; but here was a member of the Royal family quite unprovided for."

The present petition was filed in the Court of Divorce, under the Legitimacy Declaration Act, in August last, and the case has been set down for hearing by a special jury; but a series of delays have caused it to be put off for another three months. An application for an adjournment was made on Tuesday, Feb. 27, by Mr. Bourke, on behalf of the Attorney-General, and opposed by Dr. J. W. Smith and Mr. D. M. Thomas, on the part of the petitioner. The Attorney-General desired delay, because he had just come into possession of a number of documents which could not be arranged in time for the trial. These papers, the petitioner asserts, are simply copies of certificates furnished by her or her mother to the Sovereign, in company with petitions concerning the claims we have referred to. A significant observation was made by Sir J. P. Wilde when he granted the application for postponement. He remarked that it was an important case—an important public case—and all information bearing upon it that could reasonably be obtained should be produced in court, and, when tried, it should be tried once for all.—Times.

A JAPANESE PRESENT.—A valuable present from the Tycoon of Japan to the Emperor Napoleon has reached Marseilles. It consists of no less than 15,000 cases of silk-worms, the more prized inasmuch as it has been clearly proved that Japanese silk-worms produce a superior quality of silk to those of any other country, and are, moreover, less liable to the disease which has of late years caused so much distress to the silk-growers of the south of France. The Professor of Japanese of the Paris School of Oriental Languages, M. Leon Rosny, has been sent to Marseilles by the Government for the purpose of deciphering the explanatory tickets which are affixed on each case. M. Rosny is accompanied by a young Japanese, by name Sagorami-Gi, and by several of his pupils, who are to assist him in this work.—Express.

THE EASTER MONDAY VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Brighton was held on Monday to provide the means for receiving the volunteers at the forthcoming Easter review. The meeting was a very cordial one. The Mayor was in the chair, and stated that the commanding officers of the regiments had been down and gone over the ground, and expressed a preference for the site where the review was held last year. All that was wanted was to provide the funds to compensate the farmers for damage done on their farms, and he had no doubt the money would be raised. It was determined to invite the Prince and Princess of Wales to be present at the review, and a confident hope was expressed that their Royal Highnesses would graciously accede to the application. A numerously-attended meeting of commanding officers of volunteer corps took place on Wednesday, at the rooms of the National Rifle Association, Lord Ranelagh in the chair, to receive the report of the deputation that went down to inspect the review ground at Brighton. At the same time a letter was read from the Mayor of Brighton, detailing the steps that the inhabitants of Brighton are taking to carry out the review. It was then unanimously agreed that the review should be held at Brighton. It was also agreed that an inspection of the metropolitan corps should take place in Hyde Park some day in the course of the summer, and that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should be requested to undertake their inspection.

THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY
MARCH 10, 1866.